



Top ten ways to keep your period property warm

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Draughty doors and windows mean you're wasting thousands of pounds heating air that ends up outside your home. Here are our top ten tips for **keeping your period home warm and cosy.**

1 Draught proof your doors and windows

Leaky doors and windows are responsible for **30% of your home's heat loss.** Old properties do need ventilation though, so only treat doors and windows with noticeable draughts. Luckily, specialised draught proofing that uses durable, hidden seals for doors and sash windows is available. This gives you high quality, professional draught proofing that controls the loss of heat and draughts during cold weather while providing enough ventilation to allow the building to breathe. This minimises condensation and keeps your period home from becoming cold and damp.

2 Top up your loft insulation

Ideally to a thickness of 30cm (12 inches). Basic rockwool is the cheapest, **however sheep's wool insulation is much more efficient, lasts far longer, supports British farmers and is environmentally friendly.** Typical lofts lose 10% of a home's heat; this is reduced to just 3% after a top-up. Mitchell & Dickinson can fit this as part of our bespoke Warm Home service.

3 Install double or secondary glazing

This can save 70% of heat lost through windows. You may not be able to put double glazing in your listed or period home, and you probably won't want to lose your beautiful original windows in any case.

Mitchell & Dickinson can repair fairly rotten original window frames, so don't despair as costly replacements may not be needed. **We apply high-tech techniques used in the marine industry.** Then (or if your original window frames are in good condition), secondary glazing offers nearly the same efficiency as double glazing, yet with better sound proofing. It also preserves the original and beautiful character of your home.

Mitchell & Dickinson's advanced and elegant secondary glazing, called CosyGlazing, is made using insulating Plexiglas fitted to your existing windows. This is more thermally efficient and virtually invisible, **so you keep your period windows while losing the chill.**

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4 Insulate sloping ceilings

If your bedroom ceilings slope, this is usually because plasterboard has been fitted, allowing external air to circulate above to ventilate the rafters. **This can lose a phenomenal amount of heat.** To prevent this costly heat loss, insulation boards can be fitted on the inside and re-plastered. Mitchell & Dickinson has devised a very efficient method of providing this insulation.

5 Fit radiator enhancers

These heat-reflective panels sit behind your radiators to stop heat from going into the walls and **reflect heat back into the room where you want it.** They are estimated to save 7% on your heating bills. Mitchell & Dickinson can provide these as part of its service.

6 Seal up the gaps in your floorboards and skirtings

Mitchell & Dickinson offers a long-term solution using marine deck caulking, which is completely unnoticeable.

7 Fit thermal lining to your curtains

Often the last place you'd think of insulating, but the speed of heat loss (called a 'u-value'), is 5.5 for single glazing, 1.8 for double or secondary glazing and just 1.0 with lined curtains – **so insulated curtains save half your heat loss.**

8 External Wall Insulation (EWI)

Ideal for rendered or slate hung walls, external wall insulation consists of insulation boards fixed to the external walls, covered with wire mesh and re-rendered. EWI protects the wall and reduces its u-value from 2.0 to as little as 0.2, meaning a much warmer home.

9 Internal Wall Insulation (IWI)

If you can't fit external wall insulation because your home is listed, or if you have stone walls that you don't want to render, internal wall insulation can be highly effective. The technique is similar to EWI and insulation boards are glued to internal walls and covered with plasterboard. IWI is sensitive because if done incorrectly, condensation and dry rot can get behind it, so an architect's specification is recommended.

10 Floor insulation

If you have cellars you're lucky, because insulation can easily be fitted between the ceiling joists and covered with netting or boarding. Otherwise, floorboards need to be taken up and insulation fitted below. Solid floors can be excavated and insulation put below new floorboards.

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Mitchell & Dickinson are specialists in insulating period and listed properties. We manufacture and install energy saving secondary glazing, draught proofing and insulation. Our unique energy saving systems are quick to install with little disruption to your property. We estimate that the energy used for the installation is saved in around three months and with a phenomenally high return on investment, it's a system that works equally for your pocket, your property and the planet.

CosyGlazing is a unique secondary glazing system that is elegant, effective and unobtrusive. Made of Plexiglass – a modern, lightweight equivalent to glass – and fixed using magnetic strips, it is easy to remove for cleaning. It can be supplied in white or with a wooden frame to complement your property.

CosyGlazing

1. Reduces heat loss from single glazed windows by 70%
2. Fits to every type of window
3. You can open your windows as usual
4. Is approved for Grade I and Grade II listed buildings
5. Is made from Plexiglass, an ultra-high insulation material which is used for aeroplane windows

Unlike conventional secondary glazing, which has a large aluminium frame, CosyGlazing mounts directly on to the opening window sashes, making it virtually invisible from the inside or outside, and allowing you to open your sash or casement windows as usual.

To find out how we can help make your home warmer, cheaper to heat and more beautiful call the team on 01237 429826 (Bideford) or 0845 347 9367 (Bristol). Or email us on info@mitchellanddickinson.co.uk