

Facts Sheet for Draft Proofing Wall Vents

What the episode is about....

Wall vents are left over from days when we had gas heaters and open fires. To stop us suffocating from lack of oxygen, these holes were put into walls to ensure there was always ventilation.

These vents are really only necessary in:

- rooms that have open fires or un-flued gas heaters. These rooms need good ventilation to avoid above nastiness.

- rooms where lots of moisture builds up: bathrooms, laundry and kitchen. Ventilation stops condensation and damp.

In all other rooms they are just a hole to let hot air escape from. Plug 'em up

Why bother?

You are paying good money to heat air. If it is all being lost to the outside, this is a waste of money and energy.

Blocking up the vents, and draught proofing all over will keep the warmth in and the cold out so that your heater doesn't have to work overtime. This can save you up to 25 – 50% on your heating and cooling costs.

Not having drafts will make you feel warmer, so you can turn down your heater. This means you are saving more money.

Dot point facts:

- Built in vents are just permanent holes in your walls.
- Hot air rises. If there are gaps and cracks in your house, this hot air will escape. Wall vents are like green-lights for all your warm air to head straight on outside.
- This draws cold air from outside into the house, from other gaps and cracks, under doors and anywhere it can get in. This ensures that your heater has to run constantly to keep heating up this cold air only to have it lost to the outside world. Again and again and again. The cycle continues. ... until you block up vents and draught-proof.
- In Summer, these vents can be good for getting rid of hot air that builds up in the house. That is why I have done this as a temporary solution.
- It is much better if you can be in control of your ventilation. Use a window to cool your house down after a hot summers day or an extractor fan which mechanically draw the heat out.
- If you have air-conditioning to keep cool, definitely block up these vents. Cold air sinks and this draws hot air from outside in through these vents. All your precious and expensive cool air is lost.
- This is a very simple solution for a simple vent. For ornate vents you will need other solutions. If these are not available on GIY, subscribe and you will hear about it when they are.

- This is a temporary solution. It is good to know that it works in both Summer and Winter. If after a year you think you want to seal them up for good, go ahead.