Energy efficient homes

Find out more about our building fabric and how it works to improve energy efficiency.



Building fabric

Designing a fabric-first approach

The first point to address when building an energy-efficient home is the fabric of the building itself – the walls, doors, windows, roof and floors – sometimes referred to as the building envelope. This is because typically the core fabric, walls, floor and roof, will remain in place for the lifespan of the building.

We take a fabric-first approach to help our homes minimise heat loss. We consider the U-value of the materials and methods we use. A U-value provides a measure of the transfer of heat through the fabric of the home, (more commonly known as heat loss), with lower U-values corresponding to higher thermal efficiency. Consideration must also be given to the junctions between walls and floors and around window and door openings (known as thermal bridges) to ensure heat loss is limited in these areas too. By carefully selecting the materials we use, and paying attention to the design of junctions, we can reduce the loss of heat from the home.



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