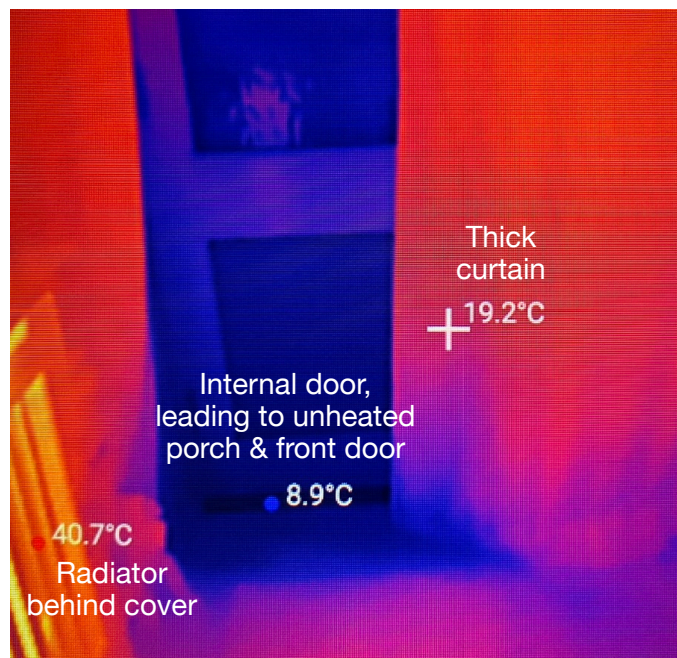


A thermal camera can help you plan improvements to your home

You may be able to borrow a thermal camera from a local environmental group, or [Thatcham Town Council](#). Octopus have a [webpage](#) with some helpful advice, and there are some useful [YouTube videos](#).

If you are making your home more airtight, you may need to improve ventilation to reduce condensation on any cold spots. We each breath out almost a pint of water vapour a day, and even more moisture is produced by cooking, showering and drying clothes. This can lead to problems with mould.



For more information on ventilation, please see 'Beginner's Guide to Eco Renovation' by Judith Leary Joy, or visit the Centre for Sustainable Energy, and the Energy Saving Trust websites. Also, find out more about MVHR (Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery) - this isn't cheap, or easy to install, but should be equivalent to having a window open all the time without the heat loss. Using a dehumidifier can also help.

Some suggested areas to check with the camera:

- External doors, and doors to unheated rooms.
If the door is colder than the adjacent walls, consider putting up a thick curtain. If your ventilation is poor, you may need to open the curtain overnight to prevent mould growing on it.
- Loft hatch
If the loft hatch is colder than the adjacent ceiling, consider getting an insulated loft hatch, or get creative with something like a large bin bag filled with insulation material.
- Windows
Check if there are any unexpected cold areas around window openings, or where the frame meets the wall. If there is a problem, and the window was recently installed, check the guarantee. Otherwise, consider fitting some draught-excluder tape, which you can get from DIY stores.
- Utility entry and exit points
Check for heat loss where any pipes or cables enter or leave your home. These can be sealed with decorators caulk, which you can get from DIY stores.
- Cavity wall insulation
If the thermal camera suggests there is a problem with your cavity wall insulation, check if you are covered by the CIGA 25 year guarantee.
- And much more! Eg, loft insulation, flooring, unused chimneys, etc.