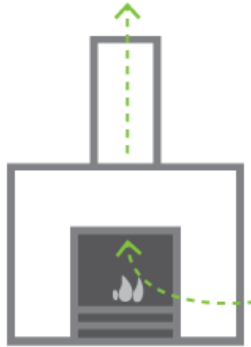


How to block chimney draughts

Warm air and money up the chimney.

Chimneys used with open fireplaces are designed to extract air from the house, whether or not a fire is burning. This means that chimneys can let a lot of air in and out of your home.



Air is extracted from the house

How To Guides

How to seal up gaps and cracks

How to seal gaps under and around doors and windows

How to seal exhaust fans

How to stop draughts through evaporative cooling outlets

Step 1: Reduce chimney draughts

You can improve the comfort of your home and reduce the effect of air movement up and down your chimney by blocking the chimney when it's not being used. There are three key ways this can be done.

1. Installing dampers at the top or at the throat of the chimney. This allows you to close the dampers when you are not using your fireplace.
2. Installing removable chimney balloons at the throat of your chimney when you are not using your fireplace.
3. Another option is to seal the chimney with a tight-fitting removable screen; however, this will require some carpentry work



Step 2: Getting started

Check your chimney to see if it already has a damper installed. This may seem like an obvious task, but dampers are installed out of sight and you may not even be aware of their existence! There may be a chain

sitting just up inside the chimney or a lever/handle. Some dampers sit on top of the chimney and others are located in the 'throat' of the chimney (see illustration). If you can feel a draught coming down your chimney, chances are you don't have a damper!

Step 3: Fixing the problem

If you don't have a chimney damper, you can engage a professional to install a damper or you can install an inflatable chimney balloon. This balloon should sit in the throat of the chimney and effectively seal off the flow of air. However, the shape and size of the chimney balloon must be suitable for your specific chimney and it needs to be installed correctly to achieve a good seal. Be sure to follow the installation instructions which will be provided with the chimney balloon.

More information

If you need to know how to seal up other areas around the house, this information is covered in the following guides:

- [How to seal gaps and cracks in walls](#)
- [How to seal gaps under and around doors and windows](#)
- [How to seal exhaust fans](#)
- [How to seal evaporative cooling outlets](#)