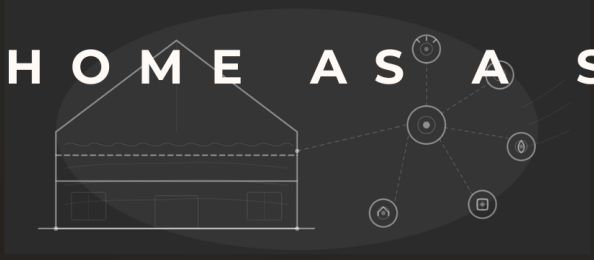
8 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT

YOUR HOME AS A SYSTEM



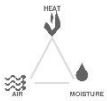
Healthy Homes Factsheet Series
by Warmer Homes

INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM

Changing one element can affect others.

- Adding insulation changes ventilation needs
- Upgrading heating affects moisture levels
- Sealing draughts affects air quality.

Understanding these interactions is the foundation of good home energy thinking.

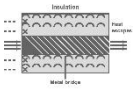


HEAT, AIR & MOISTURE

Every comfort, health and energy problem in a home can be traced back to how heat, air and moisture are moving — or failing to move — through the home. Getting all three right is the goal of a whole-home approach.

OCCUPANCY BEHAVIOUR

How people use their home — whether they open windows, how long they shower, whether they dry clothes indoors, how they operate their heating — is as important as the physical fabric of the building. A home energy assessment considers both.



BLOCK THE THERMAL BRIDGE

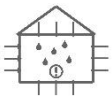
You can insulate a wall sufficiently, but if you leave a bridge—like a metal window frame that goes from the inside to the outside—heat will find it. Even tiny uninsulated gaps can act as a thermal drain, sucking heat out of the room regardless of how thick the rest of the insulation is.

SUM OF THE PARTS

A home with good insulation, appropriate ventilation, effective moisture management, efficient heating and minimal air leakage performs much better than a home with good insulation alone. The interactions between improvements multiply their individual benefits.

COST-EFFECTIVE PATHWAY

A system view means before you buy a new, expensive heat pump, you should invest in insulation and draught-stopping first. Then you can buy a smaller, cheaper unit that runs more efficiently.



TIGHT HOMES NEED AIR

As you seal the home to save energy, you must introduce intentional ventilation. If you do the sealing part of the system without the ventilation part, you create a high-pressure moisture cooker that can lead to rapid mould growth.

DAMPNESS & HEATING

It takes much more energy to heat damp air than it does to heat dry air, because your heater has to work overtime just to ‘excite’ those water molecules before it can even start warming the room. Inadequate ventilation can impact your power bills.

This factsheet is provided by Warmer Homes.
We hope that by reading our factsheets you will learn some useful ways to make your home warmer, drier and more comfortable to live in. Learn more at warmerhomes.nz

WARMER HOMES
HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENTS