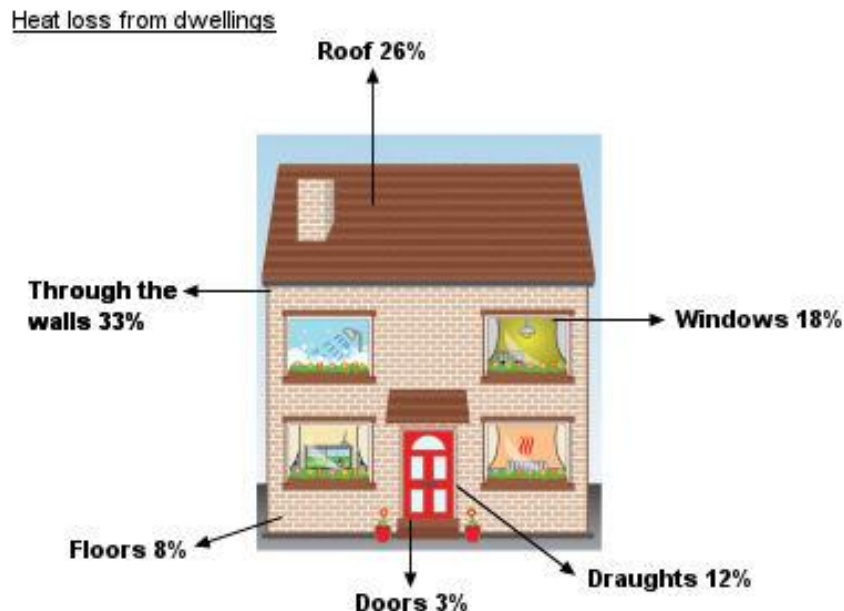


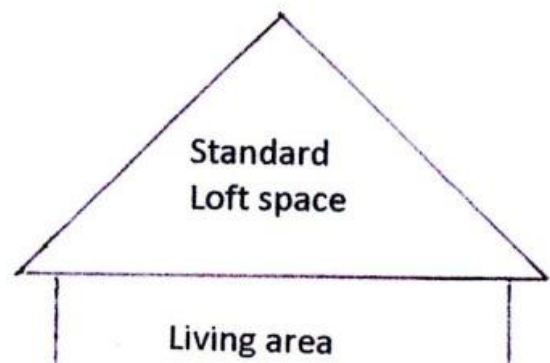
## INSULATION OF NON STANDARD ROOFS



## LOFT INSULATION

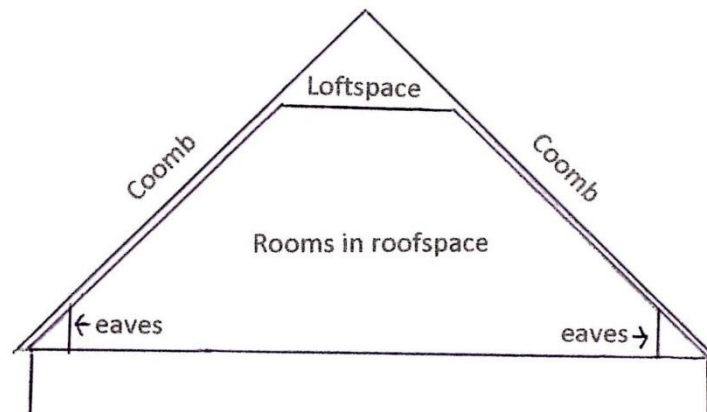
The advantage of good insulation (approx 270 mm) is not just that it helps keep in the heat in the winter. It also helps keep the property from overheating in the summer. If there is no roof or loft insulation 26 % of the heat from a house will escape through the roof.

The best option for standard loft insulation would be to phone the local Energy Saving Scotland advice centre (ESSac) on freephone 0800 512 012. They will make sure that you get the best deal either through the Energy Assistance Package (EAP), CERT or any other schemes available. Allow at least 5 minutes for the phone call because they will take you through their advice questionnaire at the same time. They will send you a basic advice report based on the answers you give to the questions.



It is important that all areas of the roof are insulated, including any sloping ceilings (coombs) and into the eaves. Heat has a way of finding the uninsulated areas to escape from, resulting in cold spots.

## Sloping ceilings (coombs)



The options for DIY or organising the work yourself are as follows:

- **replacing plasterboard with a high performing insulated plasterboard**

Insulated plasterboard Kingspan Kooltherm K18 has a very good thermal conductivity. The insulation has approximately twice the insulating effect as fibreglass or wool and the plasterboard itself is 12.5 mm thick.

- **stripping the existing lining to the slopes away, insulating between the rafters before relining.**

If there is limited space the best product to consider is Actis Triso Super 10, which has the advantage of being very thin but has the insulating effect of 210 mm fibreglass in roofs. In order for this to work best it needs to be installed well with no gaps between the sheets or at corners etc. It is specifically designed for roofs and attic conversions.

Or you could fit insulation board such as Kingspan Thermapitch TP 10 or fibreglass between the rafters and then fit plasterboard back on again. An air gap of 50 mm usually needs to be left above the insulation on the external side. Foil backed plasterboard is best as this creates a low-e air space which improves the U-value.

- **Installing insulation board behind coombs**

Insulation can be put behind the coombs if there is access from the loft. This can be done by a joiner or DIY using insulation board such as Kingspan TW 55 or Thermapitch TP 10 insulation board. It is lightweight and very easy to cut. This can be slid down the coombs from the top, or up from underneath. However it might be difficult to reach all the spaces and heat will escape from spaces left uninsulated.

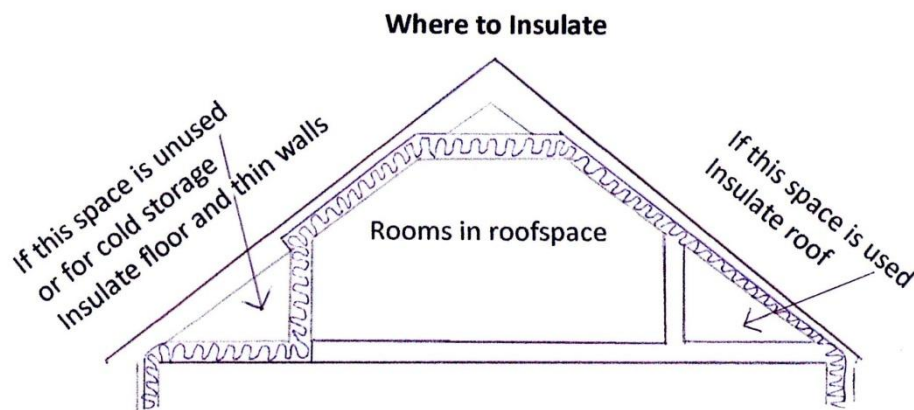
It is usually important for this method that you make sure an air gap of 50 mm is left above the insulation, between the insulation and the roof timbers, on each row. This is to allow air to circulate across the roofspace from each side of the roof, above the insulation. The edge of the eaves at each side of the roof must not be blocked.

**However** there are situations when an air gap is not required in the roof. Many old roofs are naturally ventilated. If there is no roofing felt on the sarking boards (these are the timber boards above/between the rafters) and if you can see daylight between the sarking boards, then there is no air space required.

### **If you want minimal disruption**

Sempatap Thermal is very easy to install as a DIY job. It can be glued on top of plasterboard on coombs where access to the roofspace is difficult. It is only 10 mm thick and it can be painted over. It has the insulating equivalent of adding 7 mm of fibreglass. It is possible to add 2 layers (overlapping) to double the insulating effect.

**Insulation of Eaves** ( additional areas of roofspace skirting the edges of upstairs rooms )



If these areas are not insulated, heat from the rooms below will escape through the ceiling and then straight through the roof. Heat will also escape from any adjoining rooms, through the thin timber partition walls. How you insulate these areas depends on what these areas are used for. If there is no access it could be worth having one or more hatches cut to gain access to these sections.

You can insulate the floor of this as you would a loft, and the thin partition walls can also be insulated with standard insulation materials. Leave a small gap at the floor of the eaves to allow for ventilation.

If you cannot get access to into the eaves, you could fit insulated plasterboard onto these thin walls such as Kingspan K18 or K17 (see above).

Foil backed plasterboard creates a low-e air space which improves the u-value ( slows heat-loss).

## **Dormers**

A lot of heat is lost from uninsulated dormers. The options for insulation and materials that can be used for insulation will depend on how much space there is behind the plasterboard at each side of each dormer. You could possibly use the same insulation material for the sides and the roof.

## **If your pitched roof is suffering from the effects of nail corrosion**

There is an insulation product Duratherm OS which also provides a repair and stabilisation system on unfelted slate or tiled pitched roofs suffering from the effects of nail sickness. It is sprayed onto the underside of the tiles or slates between the joists. It is claimed that this can extend the life of a roof by over 20 years. Indicative costs are about £2,500 - £3,000 for a typical three bedroom semi. Additional costs would be incurred for removal and reinstatement of plasterboard, services, etc. For more information phone Isothane Ltd at 01254 872555 website at [www.isothane.com](http://www.isothane.com)

## **Flat Roof Insulation**

This is most cost-effective if it is done when the flat roof needs repair or replacement, as the cost of adding insulation would be only a small fraction of the total cost. You would need to ask for good insulation to be included as this might not happen otherwise. If the roof does not yet need repair, an option could be to add a layer of insulation material to the ceiling of the rooms below this roof.

## **Insulating over downlights**

Halogen downlights give off heat, so it is not advised to insulate directly on top of them. B & Q sell heat diffusers which solve this problem but there are other possibilities. It is recommended that you replace the halogen lights with low energy alternatives which produce at least 80% less heat. Another option is to place upturned terracotta plant pots over the top of the lights in the loft, to raise up the level of insulation away from any heat. Please refer to the "How To" factsheet on lighting for more information.