

Your new home was built to Passivhaus standards, meaning it provides a high level of comfort in both winter and summer, while consuming very little energy compared to standard housing.

Passivhaus homes are easy to live in and require little maintenance. There are some extra features in your home which are explained in this guide, along with advice on how to operate your home to achieve the best possible level of comfort with the lowest energy consumption.

Comfort

Your home is designed to maintain a constant ambient temperature throughout the year, typically averaging 20°C. Thanks to the airtight construction, you will not experience cold spots or draughts, and all surfaces will be warm to the touch. Your home may feel a little warmer than usual when you have visitors due to the extra body heat which is retained and recycled by the MVHR system. If you wish to cool the rooms, open windows as usual.

Mechanical Ventilation Heat Recovery (MVHR) unit

The MVHR system provides a continuous supply of fresh filtered air into your home while maintaining a constant temperature – this means you can always enjoy fresh air without any heat loss. The system ventilates your home, taking the warmth from the air being going out and puts it into the air coming in.



MVHR controls

You can change the fan speed of your MVHR unit using the wall mounted controls. This can be useful if you need a bit of a boost to clear smells or moisture.



Ventilation grilles

The grilles allow air to flow through your home and have been calibrated for optimum performance. Be careful not to cover them or accidentally readjust them when cleaning.



Filters

The MVHR unit will filter out dust, pollen and general pollution. Remember to check and replace your filters periodically – usually a couple of times a year.



Your home's airtightness barrier

Your home has an airtight membrane built into the walls and ceilings. This layer should not be punctured, as it will negatively affect the energy efficiency of your home. To protect the layer:

- Don't drill into the ceiling or floor
- When hanging up pictures and decorations, always use plasterboard screws up to maximum 50mm long and ensure they are adequate for the weight of the item you wish to hang.
- Don't drill into any external surface, including the windows and doors.



Windows and doors

The highly efficient windows and doors have been designed too greatly reduce the loss of warmth. To enable your MVHR unit to work efficiently, it's best to keep the windows and doors shut in order to maintain a stable temperature inside. Open the windows as usual on warm days or if you need more ventilation.

Helpful tips

Living in a Passivhaus means that you can significantly reduce your carbon footprint and lower your energy bill. Here are a few tips that might help you get the best results.

- You can hang your washing on a clothes horse inside your home – it will dry faster than in a traditionally built house thanks to the MVHR system.
- Open your curtains/blinds on a bright winter's day to allow the warmth from the sun into your home and close them on a hot summer's day to reduce heat gain.
- To make your life easier, keep all the initial settings on your MVHR or consult your manual before making any changes.