

Investigation

Use the **Investigation Tips** booklet to help you know what to look for. You can write the answers or draw diagrams. If you're not sure, ask your family members. You can also email woe-energydemo@cse.org.uk.

Once you've finished, use the **Solutions** sheet to see if you can improve your home.

1. General information

How old is your home?

More than 100 years old (Victorian or older) / Around 90 years old (1930s) / Around 60 years old (1960s) / Less than 50 years old (modern)

What kind of home is it?

terraced / semi-detached / detached / bungalow / flat

Does your family own or rent your home?

How many floors?

How many rooms?

How many bedrooms and bathrooms?

How many people live in your home and how old are they?

2. Building condition

Is there any damp or mould? Look especially in corners, behind furniture and in areas that are often colder.

What are the walls and ceilings like? Are there any cracks?

What are the windows, doors and floors like? Are there any cracks or holes? What are they made from? (e.g. wood, plastic, aluminium.) Are they covered with curtains, blinds, carpets or anything else?

Can you see the guttering on the outside? When it rains, does the water stay in the guttering or does it spill out anywhere?

Can you see the roof? What kind of roof is it? Are there any gaps in the tiles?

Do you have solar panels?

3. Ventilation and draughts - you need to have enough fresh air but not too much!

Do you get draughts? If you do, where are they? Can you discover where they're coming in? Wet your fingertip to feel cool air coming in. Or use a feather to see when it moves in the breeze.

Does your home have ways of getting fresh air in that isn't windows and doors? Look for trickle vents, extractor fans (in the kitchen and bathroom), and air bricks. Are any of them blocked?

How do you usually dry your laundry? (Outside, inside on a rack, in a tumble dryer)

4. Heating

How do you warm up your house and hot water? There might be more than one way (gas boiler, radiators filled with water, hot water tank, electric radiators, coal, oil, fires, portable heaters).

Does it get too hot in summer (are any rooms usually warmer than others?) Does it get too cold in winter (are any rooms usually colder than others?)

How do you control the heating? (timers, thermostats, radiator controls)

5. Lights

What kind of lights do you have and which ones do you use the most? Look at the type of light - big light or lamp - and the bulb inside it.

6. Water

Are there any drips, leaky taps, or leaky toilets, where you can hear or see water always running?

If you could change something about your home, what would it be?
