

Solutions

Look at your completed **investigation** and match what you've found to problems on this sheet. Highlight any solutions that could improve your home.

Problem	Solutions
2. Building condition	
If you have damp or mould...	Improve ventilation by opening windows or using extractor fans and trickle vents. Cooking, bathing and drying clothes create water vapour so make sure the vapour can escape or it will make your walls damp. Try warming your house up more. Check for leaks in your roof, walls, guttering, washing machine or sink. Insulation might help. This goes in the loft, roof, walls or floor to stop heat escaping. You might need to get a professional to find the problem and sort it out.
If you have cracks in your walls or ceilings...	Try and work out why they're happening. You might need to fill them in.
If rainwater spills out of your guttering because it's broken...	You might need to have your guttering fixed or replaced.
If rainwater spills out of your guttering and it doesn't look broken...	Your guttering might be blocked with leaves, plants, mud or something else. Clean your guttering out.
3. Ventilation and draughts	
If you get draughts...	Find out where they're coming from and block them – unless they're important ventilation like trickle vents or air bricks.
If your ventilation is blocked...	Clean out extractor fans and trickle vents. Make sure nothing is blocking up places where you want ventilation.
If you usually dry your laundry in a tumble dryer...	Try drying outside when the weather's good to save energy.

Sherlock Homes: house detective

If you usually dry your laundry inside on a rack...	Make sure you open a window and maybe close the door so that the water that evaporates off the clothes doesn't cause damp or mould.
4. Heating	
If your home or some rooms get too hot...	Try closing the blinds or curtains when the sun is coming in through the windows.
If your home or some rooms get too cold...	You might have draughts – try and block them. Insulation might help. This goes in the loft, roof, walls or floor to stop heat escaping. Check your heating system and heating controls – is the radiator turned up? Is the thermostat accurate?
5. Lights	
If your lights are not LEDs...	See if you can switch to LED to save energy.
6. Water	
If there are drips, leaky taps or leaking toilets...	Investigate to find the cause. There might be something someone in your family can sort out or you might need a plumber.