

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 checking window trickle vents are open. Cooking, bathing and drying clothes create water vapour indoors so make sure the vapour can escape or it will make your walls damp. Try warming your house up more. Can the heating be used more often or the thermostat set slightly higher? Check for leaks in your ceiling, roof, walls, floor, guttering, or plumbing leaks from the washing machine, sink, shower or bath. Insulation can be fitted to help wall, ceiling, roof and floor surfaces stay warmer but it won't fix the source of damp and mould. Find the source and fix it first! 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. Are they new and are they getting any bigger? Larger cracks and ones that get bigger may need professional help to find the problem.
If rainwater spills out of your guttering because it's broken :	You might need to have your guttering or downpipe fixed or replaced.
If rainwater spills out of your guttering and it doesn't look broken :	Your guttering or downpipe might be blocked with leaves, plants, mud or something else. Check and clean 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 controlled ventilation.
If you usually dry your laundry in a tumble dryer:	Try drying outside when the weather's good to save energy, or make sure the tumble dryer vent pipe is going to the outside

If you usually dry your laundry inside on a rack:	Make sure you open a window so that the water that evaporates off the clothes can escape and doesn't cause damp or mould. A dehumidifier can help remove water vapour from indoor air.
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. Also check the heating isn't coming on when it's not needed.
If your home or some rooms get too cold:	You might have draughts – ventilation should be controllable (through windows, extractor fans, trickle vents). If there are gaps around window or door frames, floorboards or other areas where it's not intended, try to block them up. Insulation might help slow heat loss through the ceiling, roof, walls or floor. It might need professional installation. Check your heating system and heating controls – are the radiators turned up? Is the thermostat accurate? Is the heating working and set to come on when needed?
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.

Find the rest of the Sherlock Homes investigation materials at www.cse.org.uk/resource/sherlock