What is Draught Proofing?

Draught proofing refers to the process of sealing gaps and cracks in a building's structure to prevent uncontrolled air leakage, thereby improving energy efficiency, thermal comfort, and indoor air quality. It is a key component of building airtightness and is often implemented in both new builds and retrofits.

Draught proofing is particularly relevant in the UK house building, residential retrofit, and home renovation sectors. It aligns with Part L (Conservation of Fuel and Power) of the Building Regulations, which mandates energy efficiency improvements in both new and existing buildings. Approved Document L1B (for existing dwellings) provides specific guidance on achieving compliance through measures such as draught proofing.

Synonyms:

- Air sealing
- Weatherproofing

Related Terms:

1. **Airtightness**: The measure of how well a building prevents uncontrolled air leakage.
2. **Thermal Bridging**: Heat transfer through building elements, which can be exacerbated by poor draught proofing.
3. **Building Envelope**: The physical barrier between the interior and exterior of a building, which draught proofing helps to seal.
4. **Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR)**: A system often used alongside draught proofing to ensure adequate ventilation without compromising energy efficiency.
5. **U-Value**: A measure of heat loss through a building element; draught proofing can help achieve lower U-values.

Practical Examples:

- Installing draught excluders around doors and windows.
- Sealing gaps around pipework, electrical outlets, and loft hatches.
- Using silicone sealants or expanding foam to fill cracks in walls and floors.
- Applying weatherstripping to sash windows in older properties.