

Government Insulation Schemes Under Fire: Households Face Nightmare of Mould and Rot



Serious issues have emerged in homes insulated under UK government schemes, prompting urgent calls for reform

As homes become more airtight through insulation upgrades, the risk of dampness and mould increases without proper ventilation. Poorly installed insulation has caused serious problems in many UK homes, highlighting the importance of effective ventilation systems. [Preventing mould in insulated homes](#) with ventilation systems, such as decentralised mechanical extract ventilation (dMEV), ensures healthier living conditions while improving energy efficiency.

Widespread Problems and Business Suspensions

Miatta Fahnbulleh, the Minister for Energy Consumers, recently [told Parliament](#) about widespread problems with insulation quality. An audit has since led to the suspension of 39 businesses involved in these schemes.



Problems with external wall insulation

Since 2022, around 65,000 households have received external wall insulation through the ECO4 and Great British Insulation Schemes. However, a [Trustmark](#) audit uncovered failures such as missing

paperwork and installation errors. These issues cause significant risks, including dampness and mould, which threaten residents' health.

A Devastating Case: Tormuja Khatun's Home

One [particularly alarming case](#) involves 84-year-old Tormuja Khatun from Luton. Her home, insulated under the ECO4 scheme, is now overrun with black mould and dry rot. Her family learned repairs could exceed £100,000 after water seeped in through faulty insulation.

'Botched insulation means mushrooms grow on my walls' <https://t.co/0Ggux0KDL5>

— BBC News (UK) (@BBCNews) [October 4, 2024](#)

Lukman Ashraf, her son, said: "We just want to wake up from this nightmare." He expressed frustration over the lack of accountability.

Government Response and Calls for Reform

[Citizens Advice](#) has urged the government to address these failures urgently. Fahnbulleh admitted: "Years of systemic failures created this crisis. Reform is essential."



The situation highlights the importance of [Awaab's Law](#), named after a two-year-old boy who tragically died from mould-related respiratory issues. This law requires landlords to fix mould and damp problems quickly, making sure all homes are safe and healthy for occupants.

Proper ventilation is crucial, especially as homes become more airtight through insulation upgrades. Traditional systems, like extraction fans, often fail to provide adequate air exchange. Continuous [decentralised mechanical extract ventilation \(dMEV\) systems](#) (dMEV) systems offer a better solution.

Preventing mould in insulated homes with ventilation

systems



Unlike intermittent systems, dMEV units like the [VENTI ARIA](#) run continuously, maintaining airflow and reducing moisture. They prevent mould growth and improve air quality, particularly in older homes.

MPs are calling for audits of other insulation schemes, including cavity wall and spray foam insulation. Fahnbulleh reassured Parliament that those schemes have not shown the same widespread failures.

[The Energy Saving Trust](#) supports stronger consumer protections. Stew Horne, head of policy, called for expert advice services to help households with insulation concerns.

Ventilation and Energy Efficiency: A Win-Win

Effective ventilation strategies, like dMEV, are key to maintaining healthy homes. These systems also improve energy efficiency by recovering heat, which reduces heating costs.

As the nation tackles these challenges, the priority must be clear. Homes need to be well-insulated and properly ventilated. Residents deserve safe, healthy living conditions.