

Ask the experts Q&A

We answer some of your questions, with a little help from the experts

Q We've recently bought a beautiful old house but there's one feature that we're struggling with. There's no gas supply in the local area so the previous owners had installed storage heaters throughout the property. As well as being out of keeping with the rest of the house the heaters never seem to give out enough heat and I'm worried that the house will always be cold. Is there anything you can suggest?
Alison Petch, East London



A *David Garrity, Managing Director of Easy Heat, has this helpful info...* Easy Heat's range of electric water filled radiators may just be the solution. Each unit looks and works exactly like a conventional radiator

but can be simply wall mounted on brackets anywhere in the house. The only requirement is access to a conventional plug socket, which shouldn't be a problem if storage heaters are already fitted.

Easy Heat's new range offers fingertip control of each radiator throughout the day allowing you to alter the temperature as required. If used throughout the property you can also fit their radio frequency controller. This enables you to programme a group of radiators to come on and off together, just like a conventional central heating system. The seven day controller allows up to six different time and temperature settings in every 24 hour period and two or more can be used to create different heating zones.

Quick and simple to fit, Easy Heat's radiators can be installed in individual



rooms or throughout a home and requires no pipework. Each radiator houses its own boiler and pump to create a mini central heating system and is simply hung on the supplied brackets and then plugged into any standard 13 amp socket. Available in

14 different sizes and with a choice of control options the system enables time and temperature control on an individual room, zone or whole house basis. Prices start at £389. For further details call 01422 231943 or log onto www.easy-heat.co.uk.



Q My husband and I are going to be undertaking a lot of DIY work over the next few months and will need to invest in some good quality tools – do we need to buy separate tools for everything or is there a power tool that does more than one job?
Mrs J Chapel, Derbyshire



A *Chris Tidy, DIY expert at Bosch, has this advice...*

If you're looking for a cordless multifunctional tool suitable for all sorts of DIY projects, Bosch's new PMF 10.8 Li is a great choice. It has a wide range of applications, from

sawing wood, metal and plastic to sanding hard-to-reach areas. Its small size makes it comfortable to hold and able to get into the tightest of spaces, plus the countless accessories available mean you can tackle almost any task with ease. It features an adjustable dial to vary speeds for different applications, and the easy-to-use, cordless design is powered by a long life 10.8V Li-Ion exchangeable battery, with an Eco-Electronic technology, that gives the tool up to 50% more runtime. It's available at B&Q stores, priced at around £129.99. For more information call 0844 736 0107 or visit www.bosch-do-it.co.uk/diy.



PMF 10.8 Li, £129.99, B&Q

YH promotion

Q I have a beautiful Victorian terrace property that costs a fortune to heat and in the middle of winter, even with all the radiators cranked up it's a struggle to get the house completely warm. My friend mentioned solid wall insulation, but could it really make that much difference?
Miss P Gore, by email



A *Lydia Sharples at Thinkinsulation.com suggests...*

Homes built before 1920 typically have solid walls that can lose up to 45% of heat. Solid wall insulation can stop this heat escaping and can be added to either the inside or outside of your property. For period properties, which sometimes require planning permission for any changes to be made to the outside, internal wall insulation is often the best



solution. Systems such as Knauf Insulation's Internal Wall Insulation, made using recycled glass bottles, are slimline and maximise the useable floor area. Both internal and external solid wall insulation systems need to be

installed by a professional, but can save you up to £400 per year on your energy bills. Check out www.direct.gov.uk to find out if you are eligible for a grant and visit www.thinkinsulation.com for a quote.

Q I live in a terraced house, and in the ground floor living room we can hear the next door people talking. Is there any way of soundproofing the dividing wall?
Ted Ryland, by email

A *Your Home says...* It is possible to soundproof a wall and reduce the noise with insulated boards. This can be done by a confident DIYer, but you will need to get the right advice and materials. Companies such as Soundstop supply materials nationwide, and also offer a fitting service if you're not confident in doing it yourself. They have a range of different products suitable for various noise problems, so the first step would be to consult one of these experts. For more information on the full product range call 020 8123 9710 or visit www.soundstop.co.uk.

Q Do you know of any products available to revive wooden furniture? I have a whole bedroom set which is looking dull and dated. I don't want to paint or varnish it, but would be grateful for any suggestions on how to bring it back to its former glory.
Mr D Proctor, Warwickshire



A *Your Home says...* Real wood furniture is a great investment and will generally last for years, but if it seems to have lost its sparkle and is in need of a lift, try using Parker & Bailey Lemon Oil Polish, £6.99 per 473ml from Lakeland. When rubbed into the wood with a soft cloth, the natural oil will attract dust and dirt as well as nourishing the wood deep down, plus it has a lovely subtle lemon fragrance.

Q Can I change the name of my house?
Ms A Drury, East Sussex

A *Your Home says...* If you want to change the name of your property then you will need to consult your local planning authority or council as the procedure varies in different parts of the country. If your home has an official street number then this has to be kept as part of your address, but there is generally no problem with this being used in conjunction with a name. Once the new name has been approved, the council will check with Royal Mail, and update their records. There may be a small fee, depending on the procedure where you live.

Personalised house sign, £44, Delightful Living at Notonthehighstreet.com



Q I want to smarten up the front of my house before winter arrives, so I've painted the front door, replaced the brassware and tidied up the garden. I want to repaint my metal railings and front gate as they are a bit rusty, but I'm not sure which type of paint to use – what would you recommend?
Miss D Smith, Surrey



A *Your Home says...* For a quick and easy way to update your railings, Hammerite's Direct to Rust

metal paint, from £11.29 per 500ml, is a great choice. Use a wire brush to remove any flaking paint or rust, then wash with a light detergent and leave to dry. Then you can paint straight over any rust spots without the need for primer or undercoat. For more information on the full range of Hammerite products call 0870 444 1111 or visit www.hammerite.co.uk.

If you have a DIY or maintenance question, write to Ask the Experts, Your Home, Hubert Burda Media UK, The Tower, Phoenix Square, Colchester, Essex CO4 9HU or email asktheexperts@yhmag.co.uk

Feature Lisa Hilbert