

The Green Deal

Deciding on the best energy saving home improvements for you



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

1. Which improvements should I install?

Once you have had your property assessed and received your Green Deal Advice Report you're ready to get some quotes from a Green Deal Provider. The Provider can explain which combinations of recommended energy saving improvements are likely to provide the greatest savings to your energy bills, which ones pay back quickest, and which ones work best together.

Your choice of improvements is down to you but you might want to consider:

- a) Will the improvements lower your energy usage (e.g. in the case of insulation). This could mean that you are able to get a smaller heating system because your house will retain heat more efficiently, so you'll need less energy to heat your house.
- b) Installing several improvements at once.

For example, if you are getting a new boiler, it may be advisable to upgrade your heating controls at the same time. Or, if you are installing new windows, you may want to think about having your walls insulated as well, to ensure they maximise the energy saving benefits and fit together more efficiently.

You can also take out finance for the combined estimated savings of all of the improvements you install.

You could also minimise disruption by installing improvements at the same time, rather than individually.

- c) Age of your property. Older properties are built differently to newer buildings. Older buildings tend to be more complex but you may still be able to reduce your energy bills if you live in one by making energy efficiency improvements to it. A Green Deal Provider will be able to discuss options with you and may bring an expert in to help you – to ensure that any improvements do not cause damage to your property or its appearance.

2. What about different brands of products? Are some products better than others?

Your assessor will have recommended some generic types of energy saving improvements that your property can benefit from (for example, loft insulation). For each generic type of improvement, there is likely to be a wide range of products, made by different companies, which fall within that category. You might want to ask a Green Deal Provider when discussing a quote with you, which particular product they propose to install, the reasons for this and what alternative products it has available.

Some products might change how your property looks when they have been installed. Different products may deliver different energy bill savings. Different products are also likely to have different prices and installation costs. You may also be interested in which materials are the most environmentally friendly, or which have the longest guarantees.

You can talk to Green Deal Providers about the different products that are available for each type of improvement and the benefits and costs of these. Many Green Deal Providers will offer different products, so ask whether there are more products available to you. In general, you are encouraged to obtain quotes from a few Green Deal Providers to decide which (if any) is best suited to your individual needs and circumstances.





3. How do I get the best from my improvements?

If you are planning to install improvements that make your home warmer, or to stop it from being draughty, it is essential to have adequate ventilation to protect against condensation or mould growth. You may therefore need to improve the ventilation of your home as part of the improvements you install. Green Deal Providers will discuss ventilation options with you to make sure that you and your home are protected.

In a small number of cases, these improvements may cause some buildings to become uncomfortable on hot days. A Green Deal Provider can give you advice about whether this might happen in your property and how to avoid it.

Knowing how to control the temperature of your home is important. This is likely to be easier if you have heating controls installed with other improvements (depending the nature of any existing heating controls at the property). You should ask to be shown how you can best use your new or existing heating controls.

If you intend to use your loft space, ask a Provider what best suits your needs. For example, installing boards can help avoid compressing the insulation and make sure that it keeps working well.

Even if you decide you don't want to take out a Green Deal now, you can keep your options open for the future. For example, you might want to have insulation behind new kitchen or bathroom units when you are having them refurbished. This would avoid then having to remove or replace your units in the future if you subsequently decided to insulate the walls.

4. Additional benefits of improvements

Reducing your energy use, reducing carbon emissions and having a warmer and more comfortable home are just some of the potential benefits of making energy efficiency improvements under the Green Deal.

Many improvements have additional benefits. For example, new windows can improve security and help reduce noise from outside. Or, with external solid wall insulation, you may see aesthetic improvements to your property. Speak with a Green Deal Provider about these and other benefits of Green Deal improvements.

5. What are some of the other ways that I can make my home more sustainable that aren't eligible for Green Deal finance?

You could install energy efficient lamps or look at purchasing energy efficient appliances.

You might also want to consider ways that you can save other resources (for example, water) in your home. There are lots of products that can help you to reduce the amount of water you need to use – your water company will be able to tell more about water efficiency.

**GET
HELP**

Free and impartial advice about the Green Deal is available. Call the Energy Saving Advice Service (England, Scotland and Wales) on 0300 123 1234 or visit www.gov.uk/greendeal