

Draught proofing sash windows

1. Materials, tools and skills

Several products exist to draught proof sash windows, the simplest comprise of a rigid plastic body (which is nailed onto the window frame) with a smooth foam lip which seals against the sash but allows it to move up and down easily. Materials can be sourced online and are suitable for installation by DIY-ers. Approximate cost from UK distributors £4-£6 for a 2 metre length, depending on the product, plus delivery.



Tools

- Tape measure
- Secateurs, ideally straight blade.
- Hammer
- Nail punch or bradawl – for making additional holes in the strips
- Masking tape
- Thick, stiff piece of cardboard to protect windows when hammering.
- Step ladder if necessary.

Skill required: Ability to measure accurately and use a small hammer

2. Fitting the draught-proofing

The **lower** sash is draught-proofed from the **inside** but the **top** sash is draught-proofed from the **outside**.

Inside - the sides and bottom of the lower sash:

- First measure the two vertical sides of the sash window.
- Cut a strip for one of the vertical sides.
- Then fit this into place, checking that it has been cut to exactly the right size. Begin to nail this into place. Be sure to keep a gentle pressure on the strip so that there is a compression on the flexible trim. If there is no compression it will not stop draughts.
- Repeat for the second side.
- Then measure, cut and fit a strip along the bottom of the window.
- Some products have pin holes in the strips which are pre-drilled so after cutting them to size, you may need to make additional holes at each end to hold them in place. To do this,



use the bradawl with firm pressure to make a hole about 10mm from each end of the strip.

Inside - the middle: where the two sashes meet:

(Here you need a slightly different style of draught stripping but the principle is the same - check online suppliers)

- Measure the sash meeting rail from edge to edge where the sashes meet. If there is a catch on the meeting rail the strip may need to be cut into two pieces.
- Cut the strip and lay over/across the place where the two sashes meet, so that it sits over the gap but doesn't prevent the window being opened. If the two sashes do not meet you can add some self adhesive rubber seal which will help to level and/or fill the gap where the sashes meet.
- Check which sash the strip needs to be attached to so that it will open correctly. Normally this is the bottom sash with the foam part facing away.
- Nail the strip in place.



Outside: the top and sides of the top sash

- Measure the width of the window at the top.
- Cut the strip
- Nail into place with the window shut.
- Repeat for the two sides.
- If access to the top sash is difficult or there is no frame to attach the strip to, try attaching the strip to the top of the sash on the inside.



Tips

- It's helpful to have another pair of hands to help hold the strips and maintain the pressure on the seal. Or you can use masking tape to keep the strip in place.
- Only lightly tack the nails to begin with. This allows for adjustment of pressure and position later.
- Measure, cut and fit each strip in place before cutting the next strip.

These instructions are based on the information on the [Camden Council website](#), where you can also see a video.