

Passivhaus

Thompson Road and Carbis Close, Whiteleigh, Plymouth

Your
handy
guide

What is Passivhaus?

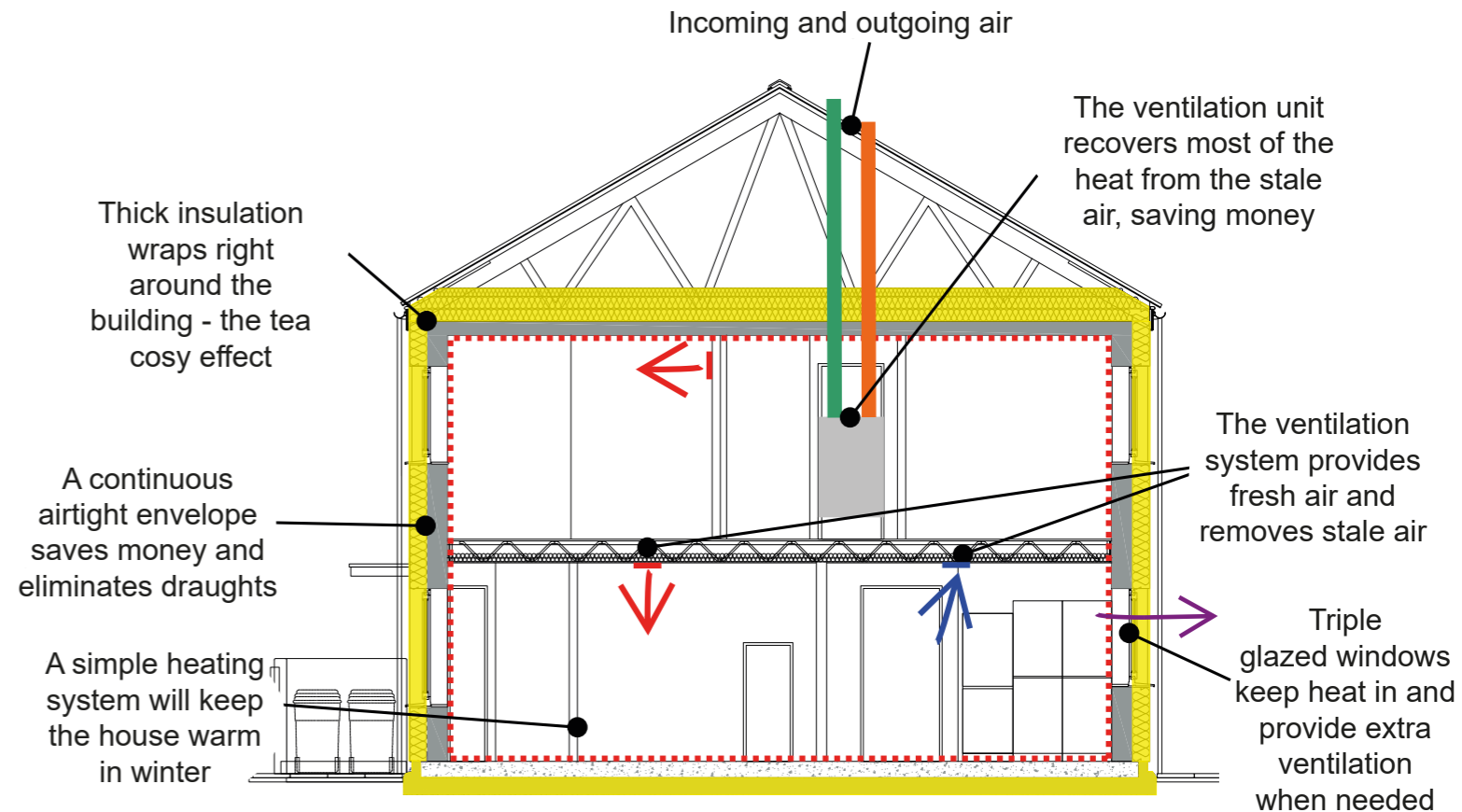
Passivhaus is an energy performance standard which provides excellent thermal performance, airtightness and a mechanical ventilation and heat recovery system (MVHR) so homes are both comfortable to live in and cheap to run.

Great for the planet and your pocket!



How does it work?

What makes a Passivhaus home different?



MVHR, boilers and vents

The MVHR provides fresh air all year round and takes away the stale air/ excess moisture through the vents in each room.

During colder months it recovers the heat from the outgoing stale air and warms up the incoming fresh air, saving money, as you don't need to use the heating system as much.

How much money will it save me?

This depends on how closely you follow guidance on how to live in your Passivhaus home.

MVHR

It provides the house with fresh air filtering warm air produced within the home.

Works all by itself and needs little attention.

Will it be noisy?

If your MVHR is set to run at a 'normal' speed you shouldn't hear any noise. If you boost the system when using the shower or cooking you may hear some noise, but it shouldn't be noisier than a fridge.



Boiler

Provides hot water and additional heating in the colder months.

I feel cold, what can I do?

Make sure your windows and doors are shut, this will help you make use of the warm air circulated by the MVHR. If you are still cold switch on your heating. Make sure the radiator valves are turned up.



Vents

An important part of the MVHR system. They provide fresh air and remove stale air.

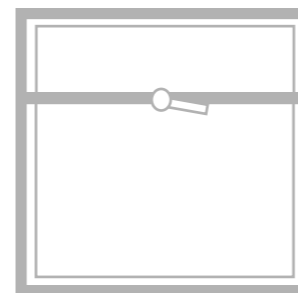
Will the air be stuffy?

The ventilation system will provide your home with a constant supply of fresh air and extract any stale air.



Questions

Can I open my windows?



You can open the window if you feel too warm, but remember it'll take a while for the house to heat up again, so don't keep it open for too long.

MVHR

Once a year the filter needs to be changed, Apart from this the MVHR needs little attention and works by itself.

Overheating

Your home has been designed to keep overheating to a minimum, but in summer it can sometimes get warm. There are a number of things that you can do:



Keep curtains and blinds closed in the day to keep the heat out.

Open your windows during the evening to encourage ventilation and a good flow of fresh air.

Will the air be stuffy?

The ventilation system will provide your home with a constant supply of fresh air. Your rooms will contain significantly less carbon dioxide than in a traditional home, creating a better environment because the air is filtered and removes harmful particles.

Can I fix a satellite dish to my home?

All homes are fibre optic enabled and also have a TV aerial installed in the roof space, because it is not possible to fix anything to external walls, such as satellite dishes. Cable TV is also not available.

Can I have a pet flap?

No. The door is triple and fully glazed to meet Passivhaus standards. Installing a pet flap would affect airtightness in your home.



How much money will it save me?

This will vary greatly depending on where you lived previously, the type of heating you had and how you used it, and how closely you follow the guidance for living in your new Passivhaus home.





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