

HOMES AND BUSINESSES

URGED TO BOOST ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Property owners are being urged to increase their buildings' energy efficiency after a new report found that even small changes can make a big difference and lead to significant cost savings.

Research by Premier Guarantee has revealed that simple changes, such as switching to energy-saving light bulbs, can dramatically improve a property's energy rating.

Managing director Robin Plaster revealed that inexpensive measures such as placing a jacket on a hot water tank can help to reduce fuel bills without requiring great initial expenditure.

"It is a common misconception that improving the energy efficiency of an older property is very expensive," Mr Plaster commented.

"While some more drastic measures, such as installing solar panels or wind turbines would be costly for the average homeowner, smaller changes such as using energy saving light bulbs, insulation and double glazing can make a big difference," he revealed.

A survey, published on Sunday by the British Chambers of Commerce, revealed that many businesses have realised the potential benefits of increasing the energy efficiency of their property.

Over half of surveyed businesses considered themselves to be energy efficient, while nearly a third had plans to introduce measures.

For an overwhelming 81.8 per cent of firms, high fuel prices and the prospect of lowering their energy bills were the main reasons behind making changes, the Sunday Times reported.



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