

Retrofit Checklist

For Older Buildings



DO	DON'T
✓ Think about how you use your building (this can affect how much energy you use, and also highlight needs or issues for different areas).	✗ Forget to get the basics right first - keeping your building well maintained and doing baseline measures such as draughtproofing will help to save energy with little investment.
✓ Understand how retrofit interventions work together in a whole building approach (some measures might not be compatible, and take any previous works into account).	✗ Think replacement is always better - e.g. well maintained timber windows will long outlast uPVC replacements, significantly reducing whole-life carbon emissions and cost if retained, and contribute to the special character of your older building.
✓ Check if your building is listed or in a conservation area (you will need to seek permissions such as listed building consent).	✗ Start work without all appropriate statutory permissions - you may face legal issues and be told to reverse inappropriate works at high cost.
✓ Understand how your building is constructed (older buildings often need a different solution).	✗ Forget to follow through a whole building approach in any future retrofit works.
✓ Seek professional advice from someone who understands older buildings (such as an accredited conservation architect or building surveyor), and find a competent tradesperson.	✗ Be swayed by someone who thinks a different approach for traditional buildings is unnecessary (using inappropriate materials will cause more issues and cost than it will solve and save).
✓ Use appropriate materials & systems (for traditional buildings these need to be “breathable”).*	✗ Forget vapour permeable materials can be negated by non-vapour permeable finishes such as modern paints and cement-based renders.*
✓ Focus on priority areas first if you are on a budget, (e.g. loft insulation can significantly increase energy efficiency for relatively low risk, cost & disruption).	✗ Forget to check for any grant assistance that may help with costs.

*Vapour permeable, sometimes referred to as “breathable” describes the ability for vapour to pass through a material.