



Know your wall before installing internal insulation



Watch this video where senior researcher Eva B. Møller, The Danish Building Research Institute, Aalborg University Copenhagen, explains why it is important to know the properties of the original wall before installing internal insulation.

Before installing internal insulation in an existing building, it is good idea to do a simulation of whether it is moisture safe or if there is a risk of mould growth. In

order to do such a simulation you need to know the properties of both the original wall and of the insulation material you plan to use.

Especially for older buildings, though, it is most likely that you only know what you can see with the naked eye – e.g. if the external wall is made of stone or brick and what colour it has. In that case you will need to take a sample of the wall and examine the material properties.

Two ways of material testing: In your kitchen or in the lab

One way to test the wall material is to send a sample to a laboratory and get a thorough analysis of its properties. Another way is to do a simple test at home in your kitchen using an oven and a bucket of water. See how in these two videos:



With a bucket of water and an oven you can do your own simple test at home in your kitchen and determine porosity, density and specific heat capacity of a brick sample.





For a detailed material test you can send a brick sample to a laboratory. Here, you can see how material tests are done at the Technical University of Dresden.



Desirable but risky

Internal insulation is often the desirable solution when it comes to energy improving historic buildings, but it is also technically risky. This video explains why.

[See video »](#)



What is RIBuild?

RIBuild is an EU research project that develops guidelines on how to install internal insulation in historic buildings in a moisture safe way.

[Read more on www.ribuild.eu »](http://www.ribuild.eu)



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