

MISCELLANEOUS HOUSE ITEMS

Cork laminate flooring

I have cork laminate flooring throughout my ground floor – it's a 'sandwich' of resin-covered cork veneer (natural style and colour variations) and cork-based layers (<https://www.wicanders.com/products/cork/inspire-156>, made in Portugal and available through <https://www.construction.co.uk/c/492750/siesta-cork-tile-company>). It's non-glue – tongue & groove planks that click together to make a floating floor. It's natural, sustainable, warm, quiet, durable and simple to lay. It's not cheap! but for me has been well worth the investment.

Radiator reflectors

Reflective sheets behind radiators, particularly on outside walls, make a significant difference to their effectiveness. We can use aluminium foil, but specialist sheets are not all that expensive and are very effective – they should pay for themselves in a year. The type that I have is no longer made, but there are various alternatives such as <https://www.radflek.com/>.

Chimney draughtproofing

Chimneys are extremely good at extracting air from inside your house. Do block them whenever you're not using them – you'll make significant savings on heating. You can simply fill carrier bags with scrumpled newspaper and put them up your chimney, or I use chimney sheep (<https://chimneysheep.co.uk/>), which are made in Cumbria from Herdwick sheep wool and are very easy to take in and out when needed.

Other draughtproofing

My front door has Schlegel Q-Ion draughtproofing strips – see e.g. <https://shop.stormflame.com/q-ion-retro-21l-by-schlegel-whitewhite-3769-p.asp>, who also supply specialist draughtproofing for windows including the notoriously difficult-to-draughtproof sash windows.