

Advice You Can Depend On

# HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR HOME?

Healthy Homes Standards have become law recently, so we wanted to explain just what these five standards mean.

### **HEATING STANDARD**

Landlords must provide one or more fixed heaters that can directly heat the main living room. The heater(s) must be acceptable types, and must meet the minimum heating capacity required for your main living room.

#### **DRAUGHT STOPPING STANDARD**

Landlords must make sure the property doesn't have unreasonable gaps or holes in walls, ceilings, windows, skylights, floors and doors which cause noticeable draughts. All unused open fireplaces must be closed off or their chimneys must be blocked to prevent draughts.

#### **INSULATION STANDARD**

Ceiling and underfloor insulation has been compulsory in all rental homes since 1 July 2019. The healthy homes insulation standard builds on the current regulations and some existing insulation will need to be topped up or replaced.

## MOISTURE INGRESS AND DRAINAGE STANDARD

Rental properties must have efficient drainage for the removal of storm water, surface water and ground water. Rental properties with an enclosed sub-floor space must have a ground moisture barrier.

#### **VENTILATION STANDARD**

Rental homes must have openable windows in the living room, dining room, kitchen and bedrooms. Kitchens and bathrooms must have extractor fans.

QSPlus are your Healthy Homes experts. As HomeFit members, we can assess your home or rental property and give you a certification to say it complies with the Government's Standards. Get in touch with Paul at QSPlus for more information on how you can ensure your home or rental property fits within the Healthy Homes Standards. His new phone number is 027 900 4193.