

**Dear StopGap customer**

**Thank you** for your purchase, I sincerely hope that StopGap draught seal will solve your problem quickly and easily. You should soon recoup the cost of your StopGap through lower heating bills and then make savings year after year as energy costs continue to rise. You will also be helping the environment. In addition, reducing draughts will greatly increase the comfort of your living areas.

**StopGap is safe** to use and apply; there are no adhesives, no print, and no odours. It is ecologically sound; the simple design uses a minimal amount of polypropylene, a durable recyclable plastic. The energy used and CO<sup>2</sup> produced in its manufacture will be recouped many times over by the energy it will save in its lifetime.

**Future heating costs:** newspaper reports predict that energy bills in the future will be 'frightening'. StopGap cannot work miracles but it will at least enable you quickly to stop draughts and consequent heat loss through the majority of gaps around the home.

**Gaps add up:** We've calculated that the total area of gaps in one average size room with bare boards and average gaps can be 50 x 50 cm (20" square), which is like having a window wide open, day and night. If it's your living room, it could be costing you dear. Skirting board gaps in carpeted rooms can total 20 x 20 cm (8" square) per room. Add these into the equation and it's clear that gaps are a major drain on the budget.

**Comfort:** stopping floor level draughts can help you achieve a uniform temperature in your room. That means you can set your thermostat one or two degrees lower and still have warmer feet. This alone will substantially reduce energy consumption, resulting in lower heating bills. Remember; your living room can cost 1/4 of your total heating bill. That means StopGap could easily pay for itself in less than one heating season and go on saving you increasing amounts of money year after year.

**Cleaning carpeted rooms** can be made easier; often, the incoming current of air between skirting board and floor deposits a black line of dirt around the perimeter of a nice light coloured carpet, just where the vacuum can't get at it. StopGap is ideal for this purpose.

**Little-used windows and Doors** can be sealed for the winter. Although StopGap is not attached by adhesive and relies on its springiness to hold it in place, in practice, we have found that it can work well for seldom-opened doors and windows. For example, out of a total of eight opening sashes in a typical large bay window, perhaps only two are used for ventilation. In a case such as this, StopGap can be used for those sashes that are not opened. This will cut draught by 3/4 even if the two opening sashes are left unsealed.

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**NB: StopGap is not suitable for use in tongue & groove floors**

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

- DO:** use an old credit card or similar implement to loosen dirt and dust, if present, and then vacuum from gaps. This makes fitting StopGap much faster
- DON'T** push any metal implement beyond gaps to avoid risk from electrical wiring
- DO:** cut off corner of plastic bag and locate and pull out end of strip to create 'dispenser'
- DON'T** remove whole roll from plastic bag – once it's escaped, it's reluctant to go back
- DO:** fit StopGap wherever possible, including gaps between skirting board and floor. This will minimise draughts
- DON'T** worry about very narrow gaps: if it's too narrow for StopGap, draught will be minimal. If desired, StopGap can be cut in half lengthways and the half-strip inserted into narrow gaps
- DO:** fit StopGap into gap with 'V' shape pointing down. You can fold the strip either way
- DON'T** use short lengths of StopGap. Unless the ends meet over a joist\*, these are likely to disappear under the floor. They can be used elsewhere
- DO:** use old credit card or similar implement to push StopGap down into gap until it just contacts the joist\* below
- DON'T** push StopGap too far, just into contact with joists
- DO:** take care to avoid splinters when working with wood

### And finally:

- DO:** tell your friends if you are genuinely pleased with StopGap \*\*
- DO** tell us if you are unhappy with any aspect of your experience with StopGap
- DO:** Fix down loose floorboards to avoid the seal 'climbing' its way out of the gap over time
- DO:** ensure that openings in outer walls which ventilate the under floor area are clear of soil or vegetation etc.

\*joists are the supporting timbers directly below rows of nail heads in floorboards and are spaced between 400 and 450mm apart, running at right angles to floorboards

\*\*please email [tellus@stopgaps.com](mailto:tellus@stopgaps.com) and tell us as well

*"Excellent product - does what it says on the tin. So easy to fit, immediate effect, just so easy. At last a viable option over having to lay carpets. You need to market this more widely but right now I'm your biggest fan so will recommend widely. THANK YOU!" Liz, Surrey*