

Summary of Chapter 9

- How alterations may be made to a home will depend on the ownership (freehold, leasehold or rental) and on having to comply with building and planning regulations.
- Landlords cannot now refuse any reasonable request from a tenant to improve their property's energy performance.
- Retrofitting a home can help to achieve significant savings in energy use and emissions particularly for heating. Some of it can be done by an experienced DIYer. It can be carried out in stages.
- A specially designed, new-build home can use even less energy than a retrofitted home and does not necessarily cost more but requires careful planning and execution.
- In the UK the Code for Sustainable Homes has been replaced by the voluntary Home Quality Mark.
- The highest standard today is that offered by Passivhaus whose accredited homes use almost no fuel for heating.
- Electricity consumption appears to depend on lifestyle and the occupants' behaviour as well as on the number of appliances in a household. It does not appear to relate to the degree of home insulation.