

External wall insulation quality alert: ESB supply cables

Better Energy Homes programme
2024-04-002 EWI



Introduction

SEAI inspectors have identified an increasing number of External Wall Insulation (EWI) works installed under the Better Energy Homes programme with non-compliant ESB supply cables.

Service alteration requirements must be identified during the pre-installation survey or at time of quotation, and contractors must not commence works until any necessary pre-installation alterations have taken place. Contractors must never move, handle or in any way interfere with ESB cables. Only authorised ESB Networks personnel are permitted to work on these cables. Please refer to the [Domestic Technical Standards and Specifications](#) Section 6.2 and Appendix 3 for further information.

We have recently completed some updates to our homeowner guidance around external wall insulation to remind homeowners of their obligations when it comes to engaging with ESB Networks. Contractors must ensure that ESB Networks have been contacted well in advance of works commencing to avoid delays.

Please see below important information regarding ESB cable reworks:

Not clipped or in trunking ►

Please note that EWI works are not considered complete until all necessary ESB supply cable service alterations have been completed by ESB Networks.

Declaration of Works forms must not be signed prior to re-clipping taking place.



◀ ESB cable buried under insulation not in accordance with ESB Job Aid Note

As per ESB Networks requirements, external insulation or other materials must never be placed over ESB cables or fixtures.

Cables/fixtures must never be buried as this poses a significant Health and Safety risk (including fire safety).

NB: ESB Networks requirements must be followed at all times.

Additional training

Ventilation training

In October 2023, the Better Energy Homes team delivered a free contractor training webinar on ventilation. A recording is available via the SEAI YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9TBLovKIJs>

NZEB external wall insulation training

Training in best practice installation of external wall insulation (NZEB External Wall Insulation) is provided at the National Construction Training Campus in Mount Lucas, Co. Offaly (www.mountlucas.ie) and at a number of Education and Training Boards (ETBs) around the country. These courses are funded by the Skills to Advance programme. Please visit <https://www.solas.ie/programmes/green-skills/> for further information.

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