

Help and advice from your trusted local MasterBond Builder

Sky's the limit with Helm!

Are you bursting at the seams? Do you need to move your family out of their bedrooms every time a friend or relative comes to stay? Is your work encroaching into the sitting room? Are you talking seriously about needing to move?

If you have an attic or loft packed with junk and cobwebs, now's the time to think about a better use for it. Converting your loft can be a cost-effective way to dramatically increase the living space in your home by creating an extra bedroom, study, playroom or bathroom.

If your loft is suitable for conversion, then you can create a light, airy space with views across the rooftops, while adding value to your home in this stagnant housing market.

A new bedroom, particularly with ensuite bathroom, will add value to your home.

Remember the key is in the preparation and planning. Browse through magazines to get ideas and make sure you employ a good, professional builder. Helm can give you professional advice on planning and building regulations, and help you manage your project from start to finish.

As with any other building job, obtain two or three quotes, check references and visit previous jobs. Agree everything in writing, fix your budget and manage the project and budget very carefully.

Reputable builders will work from scaffolding until they need to 'break through' into the house. A loft conversion should be far less disruptive than other types of building work.



HELM SEASONAL ADVICE



Be prepared for Winter

Here are some of the things you can do before winter to make your home less vulnerable to the cold weather.

- Find out where the tap is that turns off the water supply to your house – make sure the tap works
- Repair any dripping taps – ensure that taps are turned off and ball valves and taps are repaired as they can cause pipes to freeze.
- Check you know how to use your heating system properly – so you can heat your home efficiently.
- Keep the heat in – ensure your house is properly insulated. For information about improving your home's insulation, call Helm for free, impartial advice.

New relaxed Planning Laws from October 2009

In October this year, changes in planning laws mean that many homes no longer need planning permission for loft conversions, but always check with your local council's planning office as to what permissions are required, before you start the work.

In simple terms, a householder can build a loft conversion provided that:

- The cubic content of the extended roof does not exceed 40 cubic metres in the case of a terraced house or 50 cubic metres in any other case.
- Materials used are similar in appearance to the existing look.
- The home is not in a conservation area.

Even if planning permission is not required, the design of your loft must meet Building Regulations. A reputable builder like Helm will ensure your loft conversion will meet the required building regulations.

Alternatively, click through to the planning portal on www.helm.uk.com

If you require any advice or information regarding your own building project, call FREEPHONE 08080 333 333, or visit www.helm.uk.com

HELM FEATURED ACCREDITATION



The FMB is the largest trading association in the UK. It promotes professionalism and high quality workmanship among reputable building firms. Helm are now the largest MasterBond builder in the West Country. The FMB offer Peace of Mind for clients and provides a warranty to cover against unforeseen problems. As a MasterBond member, all work is warrantied for 6 years. Should a member cease to trade, the warranty will be honored by other MasterBond members.