



TEACH Passiv



TEACHPASSIV.COM IS AN
INITIATIVE OF:

MARK STEPHENS ARCHITECTS

OFFICE

Rooskey
Foxford
Co. Mayo
Ireland

MOBILE

085 159 4084

TEL

094 92 57621

EMAIL

mdstephens@gmail.com

WEB

MarkStephensArchitects.com

FACT SHEET No. 2

Passivhaus Misconceptions

1. I'd hate to live in an airtight house, won't I suffocate ? – FALSE

It is the uncontrolled air leakage (draughts at back of neck when sitting on sofa) that are one of the biggest contributors to energy loss in a house. By creating a completely sealed house you are at risk of creating internal condensation problems; so how do we get fresh air (that is essential) into the house? This is achieved via a mechanical ventilation system that purifies the air.

2. A Mechanical Ventilation system ? I don't like the sound of that !

You won't notice it, the units nowadays are silent in operation, you won't feel any blasts of air and as described above will create a purer, healthier air in your building.

3. A Passive House costs a lot more money ! – FALSE

The amount of insulation required and the type of windows etc is probably what you were going to use anyway, as Building Regulations (in Ireland at least) are rapidly approaching Passivhaus standards. The largest outlay will be the cost of Certification; the rest will be down to workmanship to ensure your home is built well.

4. I can't get the materials that are required – FALSE

Even living in a remote part of Ireland, I am able to obtain all the insulation, membranes, tapes and seals etc. that are required thanks to excellent builders merchants across Ireland.

5. I don't want a boxy design – FALSE

The Passivhaus software (PHPP) is a very flexible tool that can work with any design. Obviously the design will influence the results in PHPP but it is the designers skill in creating an architectural design that fulfils the Passivhaus construction standard and equally looks good.

6. I don't believe Passive Houses works ! – FALSE

There are countless houses across the world (with happy clients) across the world in varying climates (including Ireland) that can attest to the success of their house in all weather conditions.

7. I'd hate to live in a house where I can't open a window ! – FALSE

There's nothing to stop you having opening windows and opening these at any stage of the day!

8. I'd hate to live in a house without a fire! – FALSE

There's nothing to stop you having a fire in your house; the best way to achieve this would be to have a your fire as a sealed, multi-fuel/wood pellet etc. type stove that acts as a back-up heating system with an air intake from outside.

9. So I need no heating whatsoever? – FALSE

For most of the year you won't need the heat on but there may be occasions when backup heating will be required; remember that Passivhaus is an Ultra low-energy methodology rather than zero energy.