

Is heating needed in the staircase?

Trying to save as much as possible during the heating season, flat owners in old multi apartment buildings often decide to turn off completely the heating in staircase.

The usual argument – heat is anyway lost because the main entrance door does not close tight enough; neighbours do not care about keeping the doors properly closed, windows are old and with cracks. So it means to heat the outdoor air and moreover even to pay for it.

The cold will affect both the building and the people

In contrary to what some residents assume that the heating in staircase is only a luxury, experts suggest not hurrying up with turning off the heating in staircase. The temperature in this common area should not be lower than 16°C. Ideally if during the heating season the temperature in staircase and apartments differs only for about 3°C.

Cold staircase may negatively affect the whole construction of the building, for example, by causing freezing of the external walls and further resulting in appearance of cracks. The staircase may become damp and mould may occur on the walls. Moreover, also dwellers will suffer from this cold, especially those ones living on first and second floors, as cold staircase takes away the heat from their apartments.

In some types of multi apartment buildings staircase is bordering the ducts where hot water pipes are installed. Usually these pipes do not have thermal insulation, thus they cool down faster and can even freeze.

Searching where the heat is lost

The issue, what dwellers of the house should really think about is how to avoid heat losses from the staircase. Perhaps, firstly the entrance doors and windows in staircase should be repaired and sealed. If possible, double doors can be installed at the entrance to form a small passage to prevent disappearing of heat.

In any case, outer doors should be secure enough, with good thermal insulation and accurately mounted into the doorway without unnecessary gaps.

Of course, the dwellers need to take care that the outer doors are always kept closed during the heating season. Additionally, a door closer (a special mechanism that operates on a spring and closes the door) can be installed. A particular valve regulates the closing speed of the door.



Large amount of heat is lost in high-rise multi apartment buildings which have garbage chutes. Thus people should consider if these chutes are really necessary as separated waste collection practice is getting more and more popular. If deciding to keep these chutes, their thermal insulation and a proper sealing of covers in each floor has to be ensured. It is worth checking out if the lift shafts also do not ventilate the staircase too much.

When heat loss in the building is reduced to a minimum, perhaps it will be sufficient to have just one warm heating battery in the staircase on the first floor. It will not cost much and will prevent from worries about the technical condition of the building and about the well-being of dwellers during the cold season.



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