

If you have a loft in your house, converting it is an excellent way to add an extra room and more living space to your home.

At its most basic level a loft conversion can be done with a flip-down ladder for access and simple Velux windows. Unfortunately, in most cases, a temporary staircase won't be taken into account when an estate agent comes to evaluate the selling price of your property.

In order to get the best result once you have decided to embark on a loft conversion, you will need to hire a specialist loft conversion company.

Starting to plan your loft conversion

If you haven't been up in your loft for a while, now's the time to go back up there and have a look around. By reacquainting yourself with your lofts layout and size it should hopefully give you an idea of what can realistically be achieved.

As a rule of thumb, the steeper the pitch of your roof, the better suited it will be for a loft conversion. A good way to to add extra headroom to the original roof is by adding Dormer windows. It is also possible to extend out the side of a hipped roof to make it flush with the exterior wall.

Types of loft conversion:

Rooflight

This type of conversion is generally very cost effective and does not normally need planning permission.

A typical rooflight conversion involves installing windows in the roof or your loft which sit flush with the existing line of the roof.

Dormer

A Dormer conversion is a way of freeing up additional floor space and also headroom. You can get dormers in many different styles, but generally speaking, a Dormer is usually used at the rear of the property and projects out from the slope of the roof.

Mansard

Mansards are commonly built by raising the party/gable walls either side of your house to make the profile for the mansard and then creating the timber frame.

Hip to gable

A hip to gable conversion involves making fairly major changes to the roof. The gable wall is built up to the ridge line and a new section of roof is built to fill in the gap. As a general rule, houses with hip

roofs tend to not have enough internal volume for a conversion to be practical so a hip to gable conversion is the best solution.