

Basements are the new lofts!

We can create extra space
which can increase the
value of your property



www.basement-living-group.co.uk

BasementLiving Group
Increase Your Living Space



CONTRACTORS & SURVEYORS

THE DWG GROUP



Head Office & Administration Centre
Oriol House
53 Elm Road
Leigh on Sea
Essex, SS9 1SP

Tel: 0845 130 4566
Fax: 0845 260 5888

email: info@dwguk.com
www.dwguk.com



constructionline
U.K. REGISTER OF PRE-QUALIFIED CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

FAQ's about Basement Conversions

Q: What are the main reasons for converting your basement?

A: The provision of additional living space in your existing property – such as a bedroom, study, living room or bathroom – which can negate the need to move house. Basement conversions, like loft conversions, can also increase the value of your property.

Q: Do you require planning permission?

A: Generally not unless your property is 'listed' or situated within a conservation area. However it is always advisable to check with your local authority before commencing any major house improvements.

Q: Do I require Building Regulation approval?

A: For an existing basement conversion all that is normally required is a building notice issued to Building Control, however it is advisable to consult the Building Control Department of your local Council for advice prior to commencement. Building Regulations are required for new build basements.

Q: Can any building contractor complete a basement conversion?

A: Basement conversions should only be carried out by a specialist contractor with the relevant training and experience. It is recommended that you use a CSSW Surveyor and a BLG contractor.

Q: What is a CSSW surveyor?

A: CSSW stands for 'Certificated Surveyor in Structural Waterproofing'. An experienced, specialist surveyor will have successfully completed the training along with the relevant oral and written examinations to obtain this qualification.

Q: What is the BLG?

A: The Basement Living Group is a nationwide group of independent basement contractors all of whom provide the expertise to complete conversions to current British Standards. The BLG membership standards ensure all member companies design conversions to BS8102 - 1990 *The Protection of Structures below ground from Ground Water* and have CSSW surveyors, trained operators and can offer valuable long term insured guarantees for their work.

Q: How important is it to use a CSSW approved surveyor?

A: With below ground conversions various structural pressures will apply so it is essential to have a professional survey before the correct solution is proposed.

Q: What is structural waterproofing?

A: Structural waterproofing is the technical term used to describe when a wall below ground level is sealed or isolated to prevent the ingress of moisture into the living environment. Typically this would be relevant when doing a cellar or basement conversion.

Q: What guarantees are issued on completion of the work?

A: All structural waterproofing should be covered by a guarantee and BLG members, for example, are able to offer a 10 year guarantee, which is covered, by an independent insurance backed guarantee arranged through the GPI (Guarantee Protection Insurance Ltd). Guarantees are transferable to the new owners should the property be sold.

Q: Are basement conversions expensive?

A: When converting an existing basement the build costs are usually significantly less than an equivalent sized extension. The conversion costs are often offset by the increase in the value of your property.

Q: How can I find out more about converting my basement?

A: Visit: www.basement-living-group.co.uk or call us direct.



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