

Conservation area loft conversion

The vast majority of loft conversions Econoloft build fall within permitted development, which means they don't need planning permission. However, there are exceptions and one of these is if your property sits within a conservation area.

The statutory definition of a conservation area is, *'an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.'* While living in such an area offers many benefits, a downside is the restrictions that can be placed on householders who want to develop their home.

Econoloft apply for planning permission on your behalf

Planning permission essentially means you must have the consent from your local authority before you start building. Every local authority is different when it comes to granting (or not granting permission) which is why, any home within a conservation area or an area of outstanding natural beauty should work with an experienced company like Econoloft. We will do all the paperwork on your behalf and liaise with the relevant personnel to ensure a swift and positive resolution.

The Parkington's live in a conservation area and relied on Econoloft to secure planning for their master bedroom ensuite. They said: "We were fortunate to select Econoloft to carry out the conversion and they demonstrated their expertise from the outset. They really knew their stuff when it came to the planning process. They helped us through the process and thankfully it was relatively simple."



Your Econoloft loft conversion in a conservation area should complement the neighbourhood

Planners will be concerned that any alteration to your property does not have a negative impact, not just on your own home, but the street scene and the area overall. That's why the

roofline on a loft conversion and the materials used are usually the two most important aspects to get right.

In Muswell Hill, the Fynaut family wanted a substantial loft conversion on their Edwardian terraced house in a conservation area and the family were keen that both the external and internal work would blend seamlessly with their period home. Econoloft made sure the roof tiles matched the existing ones and that the dormer windows were in line with the roofline. Internally, the new staircase and bannisters perfectly complemented the existing stairs, following the same line from top to bottom. This was a split-level loft conversion which made it tricky to meet both planning restrictions and the family's requirements. But we did it.

The family said: "We realised a loft conversion specialist was needed. It was clear Econoloft and their team were not at all fazed by our specific requirements and took it all in their stride. We had every confidence they would not let us down and it was apparent they had the experience and technical expertise to get the job done."

Econoloft is a loft conversion one stop shop

As a company with over 40 years' experience building loft conversions, we have worked with dozens of local authorities to secure planning permission for properties within conservation areas. We only build loft conversions and offer a one-stop-loft-conversion-shop which means you won't need any other experts, as we do it all from planning to plaster.

It's also essential to remember that carrying out a loft conversion without planning is actually a criminal offence and by not seeking planning or, carrying out work that does not meet the planners' stipulations to the letter, could result in a fine, prosecution and the expensive option of returning the property to its original state.

If you are lucky enough to live in one of the country's conservation areas it is likely that your property will be full of unique character features, having a loft conversion with Econoloft will ensure you keep them.