







What were Tudor houses like?

What were they made from?

Most Tudor houses were made from oak timber frames and filled in with wattle and daub. Wattle is an interwoven mesh of twigs and sticks, and daub was a mixture of mud, sand and dung. The oak frames were blackened, sometimes covered in tar, and they were cut by hand which is why on some Tudor houses you can see bends in the woodwork.

Rich people started to make their houses out of brick in the Tudor period. Bricks were a luxury and showed how rich you were. Some less wealthy people built the first floor out of brick and the higher floors using the traditional methods. Only the extremely wealthy, like kings or lords, could afford to build a whole house out of bricks.



Did you know...?

People first started using glass in their windows in Tudor times but it was very expensive so only the rich could afford it. The glass sheets were expensive to make so they used lots of small panes of glass in each window. Poorer people just used wooden shutters.



What was jettying?

During the Tudor period, the population got bigger and bigger and many towns became crowded. People often had only a small plot to build a house on and so they would make the upper floors bigger than the ground floor so there would be more space. This made the upper floors hang over the ground floor.

Chimneys and Fireplaces

Before Tudor times, people didn't have chimneys. The smoke from the fire would escape through a simple hole in the roof. But during the Tudor period, people started to build chimneys out of brick or stone. One of the reasons for this was that people started using coal in their fires as well as wood. This caused more smoke and people had to find a way of getting the smoke out safely. Stone or iron fireplaces were also first used in Tudor times. Again, it would only have been the wealthier Tudors who could have afforded these things to begin with. Poorer people stuck with the hole in the roof.



Interesting Fact...

In Tudor times, people started making their rooms smaller instead of bigger. They started creating more rooms in their houses instead of having one large room where everyone would live. This helped to keep the rooms warm and gave people more privacy.



What were poor Tudor houses made from?

What were rich Tudor houses made from?

What was jettying and why was it used?

What is wattle and daub?

Why were the wooden frames of Tudor houses black?

Why did Tudors start using chimneys?

What were Tudor fireplaces made from?

Why did Tudors make their rooms smaller?

What are mullioned windows and why were they used?

Why did Tudors start using glass in their windows?

What did poor people who couldn't afford glass use for windows?

How can you tell an original Tudor house from a modern copy of a Tudor house?