

# Energy efficiency fact sheet

## Use less energy, save more money

Energy is an essential service. But it's still important to take care how we use it, otherwise it can cost more and have a greater impact on the environment than it should.

This fact sheet describes some of the ways we can better manage the electricity and gas we consume, even if it means using less of it.

It's not always easy, but there's usually something everyone can do to save money. For some households, that might add up to several hundred dollars each year.

And using less energy doesn't have to mean sacrificing comfort or safety.



## Practical tips for every room

### Kitchen: food for thought

- Your fridge only needs to be between 4°C and 5°C to keep food fresh. Make sure it's not directly in sunlight and there's good ventilation around it.
- Set the freezer between -15°C and -18°C for maximum efficiency.
- Gas and electric ovens are great for roasting or baking but they use a lot of power. The fan-forced setting helps the oven operate at a lower temperature, and use less energy.
- Using a microwave in short bursts is a super-efficient way to re-heat food.
- Consider cooking food in bulk so there's enough for meals over two or three days.
- Look at star ratings when you're buying a new washing machine, dryer or dishwasher; the right one could save you up to \$30 a year.

### Bathroom: stay out of hot water

- Keep showers to around 4 minutes to save water and energy.
- Hot water at the tap need only be 50°C. Any warmer and you're wasting energy and risking a burn.
- Keep hot water storage system tanks between 60°C and 65°C for safety and efficiency.

### Laundry: keep it fresh

- Washing clothes in cold water gets them just as clean and can save around \$115 a year.
- Wait until you have a full load to run the washing machine.
- Whenever possible, hang clothes on a line or rack to dry.

### Home office: file away the savings

- Switch off office equipment when you're done with it.
- Turning your computer off might save another \$30 a year.
- Consider installing energy efficient task lighting or a good quality desk lamp.

### Joint effort: the kids can chip in too

- Everyone can switch lights off when they leave a room.
- Explain to children the difference between "standby" and "off" modes.
- Remember screensavers use just as much energy as a personal computer in use.

## Savings all year round

- Replace old high wattage incandescent and halogen light globes with long-life, energy-efficient LED ones. When you replace your old 50W globes with, say, 15 LED lights you might reduce your bill by up to \$250 a year.
- Gadgets in standby mode can consume up to 10% of the power you use. Turn appliances off at the wall when they're not being used.
- Try a power board and master switch to turn off multiple appliances at once.
- Shut doors to rooms you're not using.
- Only heat or cool the rooms you spend most time in.
- Close curtains to keep the heat in or out, depending on the season.

## Seasonal savings

### Safe and warm in winter

A cosy home in winter is a joy. But every degree you keep it above 20°C can add 10% to your energy bill.

- Set your heater thermostat to between 18°C and 20°C.
- Close curtains at night and seal against drafts to keep cold air out.
- Service your heater every three years on average to keep it operating at maximum efficiency.
- Consider new, energy-efficient heaters and appliances.
- Ensure walls, ceilings and floorboards are properly insulated; this can reduce heating costs by 20%.
- Use a warm doona so heating can be turned down or off while everyone is asleep.
- In general, electric blankets only need be on for a short time – around 10-30 minutes on an average setting.
- Install or retrofit double-glazed windows, which can retain up to 40% of heat inside.

### Keep your cool in summer

- Air conditioners are among the most energy-hungry appliances in your home. Setting your air conditioner to 26°C will mean you can keep your cool, especially when your electricity bill arrives.
- Keep windows, doors and curtains closed on hot days to retain cool air.
- Update old air conditioners with an energy-efficient model and regularly service the unit.
- Make sure your home is well insulated; block gaps, and consider installing window coverings.

And just as important – make sure you're on the energy plan that's right for you. If you're not sure, call EnergyAustralia – **133 466**.

These energy saving tips are intended as a guide only. Actual savings will depend on the appliance type, size of your home and number of occupants.

Some of this information has been sourced from: [www.energymadeeasy.gov.au](http://www.energymadeeasy.gov.au) and [www.switchon.vic.gov.au](http://www.switchon.vic.gov.au).