

Energy Efficiency fact sheet

This fact sheet describes some of the ways we can better manage the electricity and gas we consume.



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.

It's not always easy, but there's usually something everyone can do to save money.

For some households, that might save up to several hundred dollars each year.

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 keep the temperature constant to cook food quicker, and use less energy.

- Your microwave is your best appliance friend, use your microwave where possible to cook, de-frost and re-heat. Just remember to turn off the switch on the wall when not in use.
- Consider cooking food in bulk so there's enough for meals over two or three days.

Bathroom: stay out of hot water

- Keep showers to around four 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 above 60°C for safety and efficiency.

Laundry: keep it fresh

- Washing clothes in cold water gets them just as clean.
- 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 finished with it.
- Turn your computer off when it's not in use.
- 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.



4-5°C

To keep food fresh in the fridge



4 mins

Showers to save water and energy



50°C

For hot water at the tap



+60°C

For safe and efficient hot water storage systems

Savings all year round

- Look at star ratings when you're buying a new washing machine, dryer or dishwasher; every extra star could save you between 15 to 30 per cent of running costs, saving hundreds of dollars each year.
- Replace old high wattage incandescent and halogen light globes with long-life, energy-efficient LED ones.
- Gadgets in standby mode can consume up to 10 per cent 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 up to 10 per cent to your energy usage.

- 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 at least every two years 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 40 to 50 per cent.
- 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 minutes on an average setting.
- Install or retrofit double-glazed windows, which can retain up to 40 per cent of heat inside.

Keep your cool in summer

- Air conditioners are among the most energy-hungry appliances in your home. We recommend setting your air conditioner to 26°C for maximum efficiency.
- 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**.



15-30%

Running costs saved with every extra star rating on a washing machine, dryer or dishwasher



2 years

Service your heater at least every two years



18-20°C

For your heater in winter



26°C

For your aircon in summer

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