



Energy Efficiency Tips @ Home

HEATING & COOLING

Heating and cooling can contribute to a large portion of your household energy bill



- Keep temps between 18–20°C in winter and 24-25°C in summer
- Only heat and cool the rooms that you are using and close doors and windows in those areas
- Reverse-cycle air conditioners (ACs) are cheaper to run in winter than standard electric heaters
- Install the right sized ACs for the space you need to cool or heat
- Regularly maintained ACs operate more efficiently (e.g. cleaning air filters and coils)
- In bedrooms, consider using hot water bottles, electric blankets & dress warm
- Close doors, seal cracks around windowsills and skirting boards, and place draught blockers along the bottom of your door frames
- The most effective way to keep your home cool during the day is to prevent the sun's rays from hitting windows and walls. Blinds, curtains and reflective window tints all help
- Use fans to circulate the cool air from ACs
- At night, place a fan near an open window - it will blow hot air out of the room, replacing it with cold air from outside. Open another window elsewhere to encourage a cross breeze
- If you can, insulate your home by installing roof and wall insulation to suit your locality
- Use fans to circulate the cool air from the air conditioner

HOT WATER



- Switch to a water efficient shower head and make shorter showers a habit
- Reduce the temperate setting of your hot water system to 60°C (instead of 70 - 80°C) and if you have an instantaneous system, check that your thermostat is set no higher than 50°C
- Make regular checks to ensure there are no leaks in your hot water system and fix any leaking taps quickly
- Insulate hot water tanks and pipes to limit heat loss
- If your hot water system is 10 or more years old you may want to consider a more efficient replacement like a hot water heat pump
- Ensure that you get the right system for the number of people in your home and position it near where you use hot water the most

The Energy Charter

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ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES



- Check the star rating when buying appliances to compare energy efficiency. More stars mean fewer running costs
- Washing machines - wash clothes in cold water and wash a full load or adjust the water levels
- Clothes dryers are one of the biggest home energy drainers. Use your clothesline or a clothes horse and take advantage of the sun and breeze when possible
- If using your clothes dryer, leave about a quarter of your dryer's barrel empty so heat can circulate more freely to help your clothes dry faster
- Dry washing in quick, consecutive loads to benefit from the warmth from the previous load
- Add a small dry towel to your load to reduce drying time by up to 25%
- Clean your dryer's lint filter after each load
- Fridge/freezer - check the temperature settings are not too low. Fridges should be between 3 -5°C and freezers between minus 15 - 8°C
- Position your fridge and freezer away from direct sunlight and a leave a gap around it to let the air circulate
- Keep doors closed and try to limit the number of times you open the fridge door

COOKING



- Make sure you're not making your appliances work harder than they need to. For example, defrost food in the fridge overnight rather than in the microwave
- Use a microwave when possible to cook food
- When simmering on a stove top, put pot lids on and use appropriately-sized pots with flat bottoms and tight fitting lids
- Make sure oven doors close tightly and seals are in good condition

LIGHTING



- Switch to energy efficiency lighting. Replace halogen with LED bulbs, especially where lights are on for long periods. Choose fluorescent tubes as they use a quarter of the electricity of ordinary bulbs and last around eight times longer. Reduce bulb wattage - choose the lowest wattage bulb for the room's lighting needs
- Only light the spaces you're using. For example, install multiple zone switches in large open plan spaces to cover different areas and use dimmer controls