

Energy Wise Tips

TIP SHEET

For most people, energy bills can be very expensive, mainly when it is cold outside. Below are some general ideas for saving energy in your home that may reduce your costs and are good for the environment too.

KEEPING COOL OR WARM

- Set any heating control as low as possible during winter (around 19 or 20 degrees Celsius). Every degree that you increase your heater by adds around 10 per cent to heating costs.
- Make sure you clean heater filters often.
- If you have north-facing windows, open your curtains as wide as possible during the day to let in the sun.
- In winter, close curtains and blinds after the sun goes down. In summer, closing curtains in the afternoon can stop your house heating up too much.
- Put a draft stopper such as a rolled-up towel at the bottom of the door to keep out drafts.
- Only heat the room you are in and shut other doors.
- If you are using a plug-in heater, keep it away from windows.

LIGHTING

- Switch off lights when you leave the room.
- Use low-wattage globes in areas that do not need bright lighting, such as hallways.
- Use light-coloured lamp shades to help light the room more easily.
- Replace regular light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). These use up to 80 per cent less energy than traditional light bulbs.

KITCHEN

- Regularly clean dust away from the 'condenser coils' at the back of fridges. There should be a least a 5 cm gap between the back of your fridge and the wall to allow the heat from the fridge motor to escape.
- Check your fridge or freezer seals. Damaged seals can cause your fridge to use more energy.
- Try not to open your fridge door too frequently when it is hot outside.
- It takes a lot of energy to heat the oven, which will cost you money. Try to use a microwave or electric frying pan instead of the oven. Your oven loses about four degrees of heat every time it is opened.
- Keep lids on pots to shorten cooking time.

LAUNDRY

- Hang washing on a clothesline or airer instead of using a tumble dryer.
- If you use the tumble dryer clean out the lint filter each time you use it. It will work more efficiently and reduce fire danger.
- Iron clothes in large batches to avoid having to re-heat the iron. The 'steam' setting uses more energy, so dry iron wherever possible.
- Wash clothes in cold water. Use washing powder suitable for cold water for best results.
- Do not dry clothes close to a heater. This can cause a fire in your home.

BATHROOM

- Make sure exhaust fans, heaters (including heater lights) and things such as hair dryers are switched off at the power point when you are not using them.
- Take short showers. A timer is a good way to make sure that the showers are kept short.
- Even though gas hot water does not run out, remember that it still takes energy to heat the water.
- Contact Property Services on 1300 895 205 if you notice any leaks or a lot of water running from the overflow pipe of your hot water cylinder.

'STANDBY' POWER

Switch off electrical appliances at the wall when you're not using them. Appliances such as televisions, stereos, game consoles, computer equipment use power even when they are not in use.