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## Cheap ways to make your home more energy efficient



### Do your own home audit

As a tenant, there are some things you can do around your home to stop losing energy and to make it more energy efficient. So do the following and you will save money on your energy bill.

#### Locate air leaks

Did you know that draughts can increase your heating costs by around 20%?

Stopping draughts is the cheapest way to reduce your heating costs.

Check around the doors and windows for gaps where air leaks occur and seal with a sealing tape or No More Gaps.

Use a door snake to keep the drafts from coming under your doors. Twin draft stops are even better because they are double sided to provide double air leak protection, and move with the door when opening and closing.



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### Heating and cooling

#### Insulation

Heavy curtains are the best way to insulate your windows during winter and you can take them with you when you move.

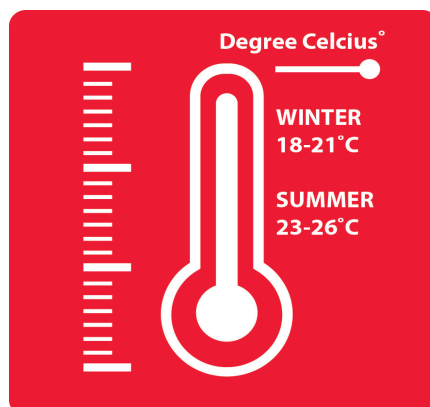
Curtains can reduce heat loss by up to 25% and block out curtains can reduce the heat in your room from the sun by up to 30%.

#### Electric heaters

Electric heaters are amongst the most energy hungry devices in your home.

Avoid turning them on until absolutely necessary by wearing more clothing or sitting in a sun filled room.

#### Thermostat settings



#### Go To Websites

Help with your bills

[www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/energy-consumers](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/energy-consumers)

Energy saving advice

[www.yourenergysavings.gov.au](http://www.yourenergysavings.gov.au)

Compare energy deals

[www.yourenergy.nsw.gov.au](http://www.yourenergy.nsw.gov.au)

[www.energymadeeasy.gov.au](http://www.energymadeeasy.gov.au)

Star ratings

[www.energyrating.gov.au](http://www.energyrating.gov.au)

Government appliance offer

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/applianceoffer](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/applianceoffer)

Consumer rights

[www.energyconsumersaustralia.com.au/powercall/](http://www.energyconsumersaustralia.com.au/powercall/)

[www.ewon.com.au](http://www.ewon.com.au)

or Freecall 1800 246 545.



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# Tips to help you reduce your energy usage

Do you know the thermostat settings for appliances that heat and cool your home?

A comfortable room temperature for winter is between 18°-21°C. In summer, set your air conditioning thermostat at 23-26°C.

Remember that each degree of extra heating or cooling can increase your energy consumption by about 10%.

If you have a split system installed and can't program it, call Housing Plus for assistance.

## Try your own evaporative cooling method

In the days before air conditioning, mothers would place a damp towel over the fan to keep the baby cool in summer.

This was the method used for the Coolgardie safe that was covered in wet hessian and hung in the breeze to keep food cool.

Fans are a great source of keeping the air moving on a hot, still day, but even better, wring out a wet towel and place it over the fan or put a bowl of ice in front of it - especially if you live in a dry, hot area.

## Keeping warm in winter

Heat only the rooms you need and rug up to keep yourself warm.

Natural fabrics like wool are warmer than synthetics, and wearing warm bed clothes when you go to bed will reduce the need to heat the house overnight whilst people are sleeping.

Heaters and electric blankets in bedrooms can also be put on timers so they can warm the room before you go to bed or get up in the morning.

## Reduce your hot water usage

### Use cold water to wash your clothes

Disconnect your hot water pipe from your washing machine so you just use cold water to wash your clothes.

You won't notice a difference in the clean but you will save on your hot water.



Make sure you have a full load before you do a wash and hang your washing on the line to avoid using the clothes dryer as this chews up more energy.

### Take shorter showers

Three minute showers will give you enough time to clean yourself and wash your hair, and you will save energy and water!

## Replace your old light fittings

Did you know there is an 85% saving on each LED light bulb you install in your house to replace an old fashioned light bulb?

While LEDs are more expensive, they last much longer and can save you about \$75 a year on your electricity bill.

Keep the old light bulbs so you can take your LED bulbs with you when you move.

## Turn off stand by power

Most things we plug into the wall socket are using power as long as the switch is turned on at the wall. Newer appliances go into 'stand-by' mode, which you may think is not using energy.

However, this 'vampire power' can comprise as much as 10% of the electricity use in the average home.

Switch off all appliances at the powerpoint after each use. Especially your television and other electronic equipment like computers and sound systems.

The charger for a mobile device will continue to use energy even after the battery of the device is fully charged. So make sure you switch off at the powerpoint.

## Use your oven wisely

Due to the size of an oven it can waste a lot of energy. But there are ways to reduce consumption:

- + Think about using the microwave or grill instead.
- + Avoid using the oven in summer because it heats up the room.
- + Use the barbeque in summer.
- + Cook several meals at once in the oven, which you can freeze and use later.
- + Check your oven seals as they may need to be replaced.

