

Energy Efficient Tips



Hot water

Hot water heating makes up about 30% of most household's electricity bill.



- > Make sure your hot water isn't too hot, it should be around 60°C.
- > Insulate your hot water cylinder and hot water pipes to prevent heat loss.
- > Use low-flow fixtures for showers.
- > Have shorter showers.
- > Wash clothes in cold water.
- > If you have water leaking onto your roof your cylinder's Ajax valve is faulty and wasting hot water. Any plumber can fix this.
- > Replace washers at the first sign of leaks on any hot water taps.

Switching Power Retailers

- > Switching power providers or plans could save you hundreds of dollars a year. To find out if you're on the best plan, check out powerswitch.org.nz.
- > If your plan offers cheaper electricity rates during the night, you can run your most power-hungry appliances, such as the washing machine, dryer and dishwasher at night to save money.

LED lightbulbs

Switch to LED lightbulbs. They use 85% less power and can last up to 15 times longer than old style incandescent bulbs.



Heaters and Heat Pumps

- > Use heaters efficiently by setting a comfortable temperature like 20°C. A thermostat helps.
- > Limit use of electric blankets and heated towel rails.
- > Only turn your heat pump on when you actually need it.
- > Avoid using "Auto" mode on your heat pump as this setting requires more power.
- > Regularly clean the filters of your heat pumps.
- > Use timers on heaters so they turn off when you don't need them.



Curtains/Window Seals/Draft Stoppers

- > Draw curtains before sundown to keep heat in.
- > Make sure curtains have a snug fit around the window frame.
- > Open curtains on sunny days to take advantage of natural heating from the sun. Cut back trees or shrubs blocking windows on the sunny side of your home.
- > Seal windows and doors to reduce heat loss and drafts.
- > Use draft stoppers (or a rolled up towel) around windows and doors to keep the cool air out.

Have a Dry Home

A drier house is easier to heat.



- > Open doors and windows to air out your home.
- > Wipe away any condensation that forms on your windows or walls.
- > Hang washing outside to dry, if you can.
- > Use the extractor fan in your kitchen and bathroom until the moisture clears.
- > Leave wardrobes slightly open to allow air circulation and discourage mould.

Turn off your Appliances

Most devices, appliances and gadgets enter standby mode that requires a small amount of electricity when you power them down.

- > Switch off electronics at the wall and unplug chargers when devices are fully charged.
- > Turn off lights if you leave a room.

Cooking

- > Only use as much water as you need in the kettle or when cooking.
- > Use the right size pan for your element when cooking.
- > Use a microwave when it's suitable. It uses 70% less power than an oven.
- > Let food cool down completely before you put it in the fridge or freezer.
- > Keep lids on pots when you're cooking and make sure the lids fit well to save energy and reduce steam in the kitchen.



Insulation/double glazing

- > Ceiling and floor insulation can reduce heat loss by 50%.
- > Install double-glazing. It can often be retrofitted to existing windows.
- > If you don't have double-glazing, window film can help to reduce heat loss.



Appliance Energy Ratings

When replacing your whiteware and other home appliances, look for models with high energy star ratings as these cost less to run.

This is especially important for fridges, which run 24 hours a day.

