

# Efficient appliances cost less to run

Household appliances, including those used for refrigeration and cooking, account for about one-third of all energy used in the average Australian home.

How well your appliance is operating can make a big difference to your energy bill. This is particularly the case with major appliances such as fridges, dishwashers, washing machines or clothes dryers - that use a lot of energy and that you use often.

Many state governments have programs to help eligible households upgrade to energy-efficient appliances, as well as other lighting and solar incentives. These are outlined below.

## The more stars the bigger the savings

When you're shopping for new appliances, look closely at the Energy Star Rating labels to compare different models of the same size.

Keep in mind that the true cost of any appliance is the price you paid to buy it, as well as how much it costs to run. Every extra star will save you money on running costs - this means about a 30% saving on dishwashers, 25% on washing machines and clothes dryers, and 20% on TVs.

## Three things to think about

- The No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) can be used to buy appliances and is available throughout Australia.
- Most states and territories have specific programs to assist people to upgrade their old appliances.
- The total cost of using a rent-to-own scheme will be much higher than if you bought the appliance outright. Avoid these schemes if you can (details below).





## Did you know?

- A fridge from 1992 will use almost three times as much energy as a recent model.
- Newer dishwashers use 25% less energy compared to those of 10 years ago.

## Helping you replace your old appliances

More efficient appliances use less energy, which means a lower energy bill. While some appliances can be a bit more expensive, they will save you money in the long term by keeping your energy bills down.

Most state and territories have fantastic rebates and grants for replacing appliances, and heating and cooling upgrades, and some even also have solar incentives.

*NOTE: for renters, any fixed appliances need to be installed and approved by the landlord - but you can still purchase non-fixed heaters and coolers with some of the following schemes.*

## The No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS)

The No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) offers eligible individuals and families access to safe, fair and affordable loans to buy appliances, and can be used for some essential household expenses.

NILS is offered by more than 175 local community organisations in over 625 locations across Australia. To find your nearest loan provider go to [nils.com.au](http://nils.com.au) or call 13 NILS (13 6457)

### The NILS scheme offers:

- loans between \$300 and \$1,500 for essential goods and services including fridges, washing machines, TVs and other electrical goods
- no credit checks and no fees, interest or charges
- repayments set at an affordable amount over 12 to 18 months.



### To be eligible for NILS you must:

- have a Health Care Card or earn less than \$45,000 a year (after tax)
- have lived in your current residence for a minimum of three months
- have a willingness and capacity to repay the loan.

A NILS loan is not a payday loan or a bank loan and cannot be used for cash, bond, rent arrears, debt consolidation, holidays or bills.

## Know how much renting appliances will cost you

Renting appliances can seem like a good option because the repayments seem small. However, the total cost of purchasing the appliance through a rent-to-own scheme will be much higher than buying it outright. And in some cases, you will never end up owning the appliance.

Make sure you know the total cost of your rental agreement and what the cost is if you want to break the rental agreement before signing up.

If you do qualify, a no-interest loan through NILS or a government assistance rebate (see below) is usually the better option.



### Did you know?

- The hot water system is usually the biggest single appliance energy user in a home. It could be up to 30% in winter! If it needs to be replaced, choose an energy-efficient model.
- Dishwashers today use 25% less energy compared to those of 10 years ago.
- Split system airconditioners are 50% more efficient today than they were in 2001.

## State and territory specific programs

Most states and territories have specific programs to help people replace or upgrade their old appliances. The programs can be found by searching for your state or territory on this website - [energy.gov.au/rebates](https://energy.gov.au/rebates).

### **Australian Capital Territory**

The ACT Government heating and cooling upgrade program provides rebates of up to \$4000 for residents to upgrade old appliances to new energy-efficient appliances. Full details: [actewagl.com.au/save-energy/upgrade-appliances.aspx](https://actewagl.com.au/save-energy/upgrade-appliances.aspx)



## **New South Wales**

Offers rebates and discounts to assist eligible households buy energy-efficient products. When you replace your old model, you can receive:

- 40% off the cost of a fridge
- 50% off the cost of a television.

The offer applies to selected models. You could also be eligible for a discount of \$200 off a small airconditioning unit (2.5kW) or \$1,000 off a large unit (10kW).

Full details: [energysaver.nsw.gov.au/households/rebates-and-discounts](http://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/households/rebates-and-discounts).



## **Northern Territory**

- No rebates or discounts are currently available on appliances
- Check with the NT Government for more details.



## **Queensland**

The PeakSmart airconditioning program provides of up to \$400 for Ergon Energy and Energex customers to upgrade to a PeakSmart airconditioner or convert an existing airconditioner to PeakSmart.

Full details here: [energy.gov.au/rebates/QLD](http://energy.gov.au/rebates/QLD)

Homeowners can apply for interest-free loans and/or grants of up to \$10,000 to help pay for solar panels and a battery storage system through the Affordable Energy Plan.

Full details: [qld.gov.au/community/cost-of-living-support/concessions/energy-concessions/solar-battery-rebate](http://qld.gov.au/community/cost-of-living-support/concessions/energy-concessions/solar-battery-rebate)



## **South Australia**

The Retailer Energy Efficiency Scheme runs until December 2020. The scheme offers eligible South Australian households and businesses a range of incentives to save energy. These are available from energy companies and their contractors.



Typical activities include installing energy-efficient lighting, or installing water efficient shower heads, helping to save water heating costs.

Full details: [escosa.sa.gov.au/industry/rees/overview/rees-overview](https://escosa.sa.gov.au/industry/rees/overview/rees-overview)

The South Australian Home Battery Scheme assists households access state government subsidies and loans of up to \$6000, to pay for the installation of home battery systems.

The subsidy is available to all South Australians and energy concession holders can access a higher subsidy.

While the subsidy applies to the battery only, households can apply for finance through the federal government's Clean Energy Finance Corporation to buy new or additional solar panels as well as the battery system.

Full details: [homebatteryscheme.sa.gov.au](https://homebatteryscheme.sa.gov.au)

## **Tasmania**

The Tasmanian Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme, a joint initiative of the Tasmanian Government, Aurora Energy and Westpac Bank, concluded on 30 April 2019 with over 4,000 applicants benefiting from the program.



There are currently no appliance rebates or discounts available, with the Tasmanian Government directing people to NILS, where they continue to invest.

## **Victoria**

The Victorian Energy Upgrades program provides discounts and special offers on selected energy-saving products and services.

The program can help reduce the cost of replacing:

- ♥ fridges and freezers, and help with recycling the old fridge
- ♥ heating and cooling
- ♥ hot water system
- ♥ lighting
- ♥ TVs
- ♥ clothes dryers
- ♥ pool pumps
- ♥ standby power controllers.



A range of home improvement options are also available. Discounts and special offers are only available from participating businesses. Ask your retailer or tradesperson if they're registered as a participating business under the program or view [the register of participating businesses](#) online.

Further details:

[victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au/save-energy-and-money/discount-energy-saving-products/save-with-these-energy-efficient-products](http://victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au/save-energy-and-money/discount-energy-saving-products/save-with-these-energy-efficient-products)

## **Western Australia**

- ♥ No appliance rebates or discounts are currently available
- ♥ Check with the Western Australia Government for more details.

