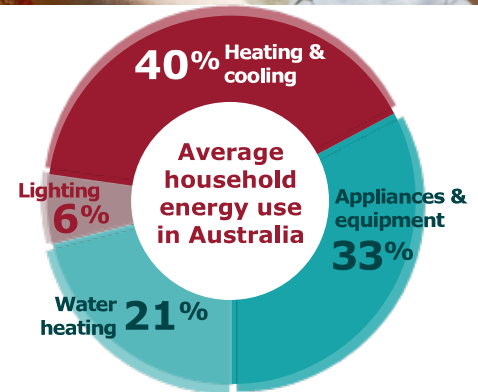


Simple steps to save on your energy bills

You can make significant savings on your energy bills with simple changes to your home and your daily routine.

The average Australian household uses 40% of their energy on heating and cooling. Of course, if you live in a hotter or colder climate than average, spend a lot of time at home, and/or have lots of people living in your home, you might use more.

Appliances use the second highest amount of energy. Focus on these areas if you want to save on your energy bills.



Six simple actions to save

- 1 Use window coverings to keep the heat out in summer and cold out in winter.
- 2 Use fans before using an airconditioner, if that's an option.
- 3 Wash your clothes in cold water - it's just as effective as hot water and cheaper.
- 4 Hang washing outside or use a clothes rack instead of a dryer.
- 5 Turn off lights and appliances when not using them.
- 6 Take shorter showers to save water and save energy on heating the water.



Additional actions will see you save significant \$\$ on your energy bill.

Efficient heating and cooling

- Close the doors to rooms you are not using.
- Use draught stoppers (door snakes) or towels to stop air leaks under doors.
- If you have draughts around your doors or windows you can get cheap weather seals from your hardware store to plug them up.
- Use window coverings to keep the heat out or the heat in, depending on the temperature outside. Thick sheets can work as curtains in some rooms.



In summer

- ♥ Use fans instead of an airconditioner. A fan costs only about 2 cents per hour to run. You could save between \$40 and \$200 a year.
- ♥ Set your air conditioner or cooler between 24°C and 26°C. Each degree warmer on the thermostat can save you 10%. And use the 'Economy mode' if you have one.
- ♥ Keep the heat out during the day by closing curtains and blinds and let any cooling breeze in at night.



In winter

- ♥ In winter, set your heating between 18°C and 20°C. For every degree you increase heating you increase energy use between 5% and 10%.
- ♥ Rug up with suitable clothes and blankets first, particularly if you use a portable heater that can use a lot of energy.
- ♥ Use the 'Economy mode' on your heater - if you don't know how to do this, ask a family member or neighbour to help.
- ♥ Close windows and curtains to keep the daytime warmth in.



Savings all year

- ♥ Put insulation in your roof or ask your landlord to. Effective ceiling insulation can save you up to 20% on cooling and heating costs.
- ♥ Don't leave the airconditioner or heater on all night. Use before you go to sleep and when you wake up.



Did you know?

If you need to buy any new equipment or appliances, try and get ones with a higher energy rating. They may be slightly more expensive to buy but will be much cheaper to run and save you money over time.

Manage the costs of your appliances and equipment

In the kitchen

Almost 40% of your energy use from appliances and equipment happens in the kitchen.

- ♥ Fridges use power 24 hours a day. Declutter your fridge, clean the seal and replace it if worn. If you have a second fridge turn it off when not needed.
- ♥ Set your fridge to 4 or 5°C and your freezer to -15°C. Every degree cooler will use 5% more energy.
- ♥ Only fill your kettle with the amount of water you need.
- ♥ Cook with a microwave instead of the oven where possible.
- ♥ Thaw frozen food in the fridge before cooking.
- ♥ Use the oven light to check on the food instead of opening the door.
- ♥ Only use your dishwasher when full and rinse plates with cold water if needed, so you can use a more efficient cycle.



Entertainment areas

- ♥ Don't leave your TV on when no one is watching.
- ♥ As gaming consoles get more advanced and screens get bigger, more energy is needed for the features. Consoles like Xbox or PlayStation can cost around \$80 per year to run.
- ♥ Turn off your computer or gaming console when you are not using it to save money.



In the laundry

- ♥ Don't overload your washing machine or your dryer - it will cost more to run.
- ♥ Wash your clothes in cold water. It's just as effective as using hot water.
- ♥ Instead of using a clothes dryer, hang washing outside when possible or use a clothes rack. Shirts on hangers can dry on doorknobs.
- ♥ If you do use a clothes dryer, clean the lint filter regularly to make the dryer more energy efficient.



In the bathroom

More than half of your hot water costs are likely to be in the bathroom.

- Take shorter showers (4 minutes max). Put an egg timer in the shower and remind everyone to use it.
- Install a water efficient showerhead. It will pay for itself in no time.



Be bright about your lights

- Turn lights off when you are not in the room and consider sensor lights for outside.
- Use lamps instead of downlights when you can.
- Replace halogen light bulbs with LEDs. LEDs use about 75% less energy than halogen light bulbs and last 5-10 times longer. The higher up-front cost of LEDs generally has a payback time of less than 1 year. You can buy them in the supermarket or hardware store.
- By replacing 10 halogen light bulbs with LEDs an average household could save up to \$65 a year on their electricity bill. You might also be able to get state government or council rebates for new LEDs. Contact them to see what they offer and if you are eligible.



Did you know?

Any items with a little light on or clock are using power, and your mobile phone charger is using power even when your phone is not plugged in.