

# Energy-saving tips for your home



Being energy efficient in your home is easier than you think.

With some simple actions and everyday habits you can cut your energy waste and make your home more comfortable and healthy to live in – without compromising your lifestyle. Add in some bigger steps, like insulating and choosing efficient appliances, and you’ll see an even bigger difference.

Streamlining your energy use means savings for you and less impact on the environment. Either way you look at it, it’s a winner.

## It all adds up

A few simple energy-saving actions can add up to a lot. For example:

Action	Typical yearly savings
Use cold water instead of warm for laundry	\$50 to \$75
Only use the heated towel rail for four hours a day	\$85 to \$170
Use the clothes line instead of the dryer	Around \$200
Switch off the old beer fridge	\$100 to \$300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$435 to \$745</b>

- Close your curtains just before dark and shut doors to keep the heat in.
- Use thermostats and timers so your heaters, including heat pumps, only come on when you need them.

## Bigger steps

- Get properly insulated. Improving your home’s insulation is one of the most important steps you can take to make your house warmer, drier, healthier and more energy efficient. Check existing insulation as the quality can degrade over time.
- Work out the size and type of heating you need to keep your home warm while getting good efficiency and value for money. Check out the options on the ENERGYWISE™ website or talk to a professional about the right solution for your home.

Visit [www.energywise.govt.nz](http://www.energywise.govt.nz) to find out if you’re eligible for assistance to make your home warmer and healthier.

## Warm your home with less energy

### Simple actions

- Stop draughts around doors and windows with draught stoppers, and block off your open fireplace if you are not using it.

## Cut the cost of using appliances

### Simple actions

- We waste over \$100 million a year across the country by leaving our appliances on stand-by – so if you're not using your appliances, switch them off at the wall.
- Using the sun to dry your clothes, rather than a dryer, could save you around \$200 each year.
- Switch off or get rid of your spare fridge and save between \$100 and \$300 a year.
- Only use your heated towel rails when needed. By using it for four hours a day rather than all the time, you could save between \$85 and \$170 each year.
- Check your fridge door seals – if the door doesn't seal properly your fridge will be using more energy than it needs to.



### Bigger steps

- Choose energy efficient appliances. Look for the energy rating label to help you compare energy use between models, or look for the blue ENERGY STAR® mark to tell you which models are the most energy efficient.

## Light up for less

### Simple actions

- Replace your four most used light bulbs with energy efficient ones and save around \$85 a year.
- Pull back curtains and blinds to maximise the natural light in your home during the day.
- Turn lights off when you're not using them.

### Bigger steps

- If you are renovating, consider replacing your standard recessed downlights with special heat resistant fittings called 'CA-rated downlight fittings'. These fittings don't require the 150 mm safety clearance between the downlight and your insulation, so you don't lose so much heat through the gap.

## Save on hot water

### Simple actions

- Wrap your electric hot water cylinder so it stays warmer for longer. Wraps can be bought from hardware stores. If you have an older cylinder (i.e. pre-1987) you could save up to \$140 a year.
- Check your shower flow rate with a stop watch and a 10 litre bucket. If it fills in less than a minute at normal showering temperatures, install an efficient shower head. This can save you a lot of money – if it filled in 50 seconds, or 12 litres per minute, you could save around \$200 a year; in 40 seconds (15 litres/minute) you could save around \$390 a year; or in 30 seconds (20 litres/minute) you could save around \$720 each year.
- Check your hot water temperature at the tap – it should be at 55°C. An extra 10°C could cost you \$20 to \$30 more a year and there's a risk of scalding. If there is not an obvious temperature adjuster on the outside of your tank, you may need an electrician or plumber to adjust your thermostat.
- Fix any dripping hot taps by replacing the washer or fitting.
- Shower rather than bath.
- Use cold water for washing your clothes. At four loads a week this could save you around \$50 – \$75 each year.
- Rinse dishes with cold water rather than rinsing them under the hot tap.

### Bigger steps

- If you are renovating or upgrading, consider installing an efficient hot water system. For example, a well-designed and installed solar water heating or heat pump water heating system can save you on your annual hot water bills.



Find out if you're eligible for a grant to install a solar water heating or heat pump water heating system at [www.energywise.govt.nz](http://www.energywise.govt.nz)

With some simple energy-saving actions you can get more out of the energy you use – and that means a warmer, healthier home that costs less to run and has a lower impact on the environment.