



Energy & Cost Saving In the Home

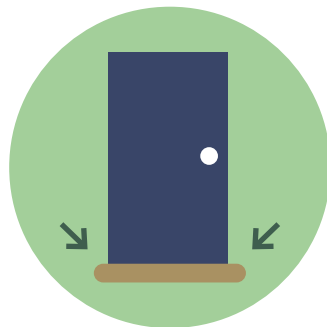


Checklist & Tips for Renters & Homeowners

Our changing climate affects the way we live comfortably in our homes. Future climate is hard to predict, but there are simple things that can be done at a fairly low-cost to improve the energy efficiency of your home.

1. Check for Draughts

- Blocking draughts will help prevent heat loss in winter and losing cool air in summer.
- Temporary seals and draught snakes are cheap options to help and where possible, putting heavy curtains over windows are a great option too.



2. Know your Appliances and their Efficiency

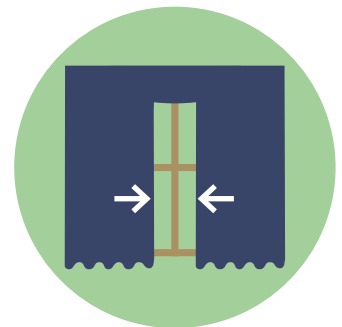
- Where possible, it's great to weigh up the energy efficiency rating of your appliance versus the cost to purchase the appliance. For example, the cheapest option may have a very poor energy rating and may cost you more over the lifespan of the appliance. There are websites available to help you to choose an appliance, such as this one: calculator.energyrating.gov.au
- Switch it off! Some appliances still draw energy if they are plugged in at the wall socket, even when switched off.
- Investigate smart meter devices at your property (like this: powerpal.net) to help read your household's energy usage as it happens. This may assist in understanding which appliances are using the most energy and therefore costing the most to run.



Did you know? Microwaves use less energy than electric ovens, and laptops use less energy than desktop computers?

3. Close Doors and Curtains

- Shut doors to close off areas not being used when heating and cooling.
- In winter, open curtains to absorb heat and close once the sun has gone. Heavy curtains not only help with draughts but will also help to trap warm air inside during winter, and block the hot sun out during summer.



4. Be Water-wise

- Wash your clothes in cold water to avoid the heating costs, select the shortest cycle on your machine and wash only full loads to save energy and water.
- Limit showers to around 4 minutes.
- Water your garden for longer, but less-often to encourage deeper plant roots. Planting native drought-proof plants require less water, and using mulch helps to eliminate evaporation (use on pot-plants as well).



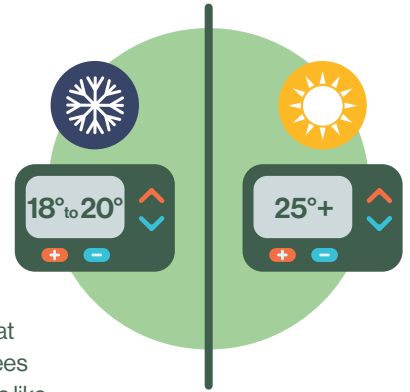
5. Switch to LED light bulbs and use Solar Lights outside

- Indoor lighting can account for around 10% of your energy bill. LED lightbulbs have a longer lifespan than halogen and incandescent light bulbs and have a lower environmental impact as they use around 75% less energy to run. LED light bulbs can generally be purchased at the same places you'll find all other lighting options.
- Take advantage of free sun energy - Solar lights for outdoors are a great idea and the solar capacity of garden lights have improved greatly in recent years.



6. Manage your Heating and Cooling

- Save money by setting your heating and cooling to optimum temperatures during the year:
- In winter, set your thermostat to between 18 and 20 degrees while utilising other methods like wearing a few extra layers, blankets and slippers.
- In summer, set your thermostat to 25 degrees or above for optimum efficiency.



Help Available to Save Energy & Costs

Concessions

Concession card holders can access the Victorian Annual Electricity Concession, which offers a 17.5% coverage of electricity usage costs after your first bill.

More information at <https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/annual-electricity-concession>

Find the Best Energy Price

The Victorian Energy Compare website will help you to compare your current energy bills with what's on offer from all retailers.

More information at <https://compare.energy.vic.gov.au>

Help with Paying Bills

There is help available if you are struggling to pay your energy bills. You should first contact your energy provider and ask to discuss assistance options. Most will offer payment plans, and it never hurts to ask if there are better deals available.

Scan & Watch!

Wangaratta Landcare & Sustainability Inc' has a great video series 'Empowering Wangaratta in a Changing Climate' full of more tips and advice!



If You're Renting –

Tips on what you could request:

Some landlords are happy to assist tenants where possible to enjoy a more comfortable home. Some things you may want to ask your landlord or rental agent:

- Does the property have energy efficient appliances (oven, heating/cooling) and/or solar panels?
- Is the property insulated?
- Are you able to ensure there are no gaps around the doors and windows?
- Do the windows have double glazing?
- Do the windows safely open and close to encourage cool breezes in summer to reduce the need for air conditioning?
- Can insulation be placed along outdoor hot water pipes to conserve heat?
- Are there water-efficient showerheads installed?

For more tips, visit

wangaratta.vic.gov.au/Sustainable-Living



Rural City of Wangaratta