

Tips for lower energy bills

We want you to be warm and comfortable in your home, but we know that cutting down on costs is important too. Follow our easy tips on using energy economically.

Turn your heating down by one degree. You won't notice the difference and could save up to £73 a year. Don't go below 18°C if you are elderly, ill, or have small children.



Move your furniture away from radiators. A space of about 30cm (12 inches) will allow the warm air to reach the room.



Keep the heat in. Close the curtains when it's getting dark and tuck them behind the radiator.

Set your hot water timer. If you're on Economy 7 make sure your water is heating up at night. An hour a day of on peak water heating adds around £352 to your annual bill.

Get a hot water cylinder jacket. A thick insulating jacket can save around £183 on bills a year compared to no jacket at all.

Get an energy monitor. Energy monitors show how much energy you are using and which appliances use the most. People monitoring their use in this way typically save £70 a year.



Dry your clothes outside

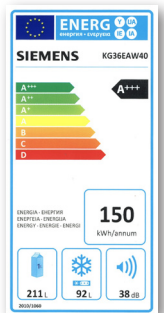
Tumble dryers use a lot of energy and drying your clothes outside will freshen them up.

Draught-proof your home

Fit draught excluders to your front door, letter box and key hole to keep cosy.

Buying a new TV, washing machine or dishwasher?

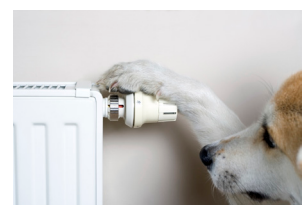
Look out for the energy efficiency rating, and go for A-rated.



Use LED bulbs. Switching from halogen to LED can save £4 per bulb per year.

Be a friend to your freezer. Defrost it regularly and keep it as full as you can. A defrosted freezer costs much less to run.

Turn down radiators in rooms you don't use much. Use your central thermostat to control overall temperature.





Fill up your dishwasher.

Doing a full load every other day is more efficient than doing half-loads, and uses less energy than washing up by hand.



Keep the oven door shut as much as possible when cooking. Every time you open it you'll lose a lot of the heat.

Cuppa tea? Only fill the kettle with as much as you'll actually use (though make sure you cover the element at the bottom). This will save up to £10 a year. And remember, it's cheaper to use a kettle to boil water than an electric hob.



Make a big batch. Cook more than one meal at a time and freeze it for another day. Use a microwave rather than the oven to reheat meals.



Taking showers instead of baths saves around £15 a year on water heating. Electric showers use a lot of energy, so if you have one and want to save you could get a shower timer.

Keep the lids on saucepans. You'll be able to turn down the gas or electricity and save money. Also, use the right size ring for the saucepan.



Get extra help

Contact us if you want more information **0800 082 2234**

If you're really struggling with your bills you might be entitled to extra support through these four schemes (entitlement varies).

The **Warm Home Discount** is a rebate on your household electricity bill (it was £150 for the winter of 2024-25).

A **Winter Fuel Payment** of between £100 and £300 if you were born on or before 23 September 1958.

Cold Weather Payments are made when the temperature in your area falls below an average of 0°C or for seven consecutive days.

You could get help through the **Energy Company Obligation** to insulate your house. This will make it cheaper to heat.

► This factsheet was updated in October 2025` using information, including energy prices, current at that time ◀



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We're a charity (298740) supporting people and organisations across the UK to tackle the climate emergency and end the suffering caused by cold homes.

Our Home Energy Team offers free advice on domestic energy use to people in central southern and southwest England.

Contact us:

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See all our energy advice pages at
www.cse.org.uk/advice