

# 10 tips for saving energy

With most of us spending more time at home than ever before keeping your energy usage under control has never been more important. To help with this Utility Warehouse have put together these top 10 tips for saving energy.

## 1) Focus the heat

If you're spending all your time in one room, think about turning off the heating in other parts of the house.

## 2) Bleed your radiators

If you switch on your radiator and the top of it stays cold, it means it needs bleeding. Don't worry, it's not as daunting as it sounds. A quick google will reveal plenty of easy 'how to' guides.

## 3) Invest in a room thermostat

Think about investing in a room thermostat, programmer and thermostatic radiator valves. They're a good way to have different temperatures in specific parts of your home. According to Which? It could save the typical home around £75 a year.

## 4) Plug the gaps

Draughts can be a costly annoyance. Luckily, they're easily fixed. It might require a bit of handiwork, but getting a draught-proofing kit from your local (or online) DIY shop is easy and pretty cheap. Plus, it will save you around twenty quid a year.

Make sure to look for gaps around your door and window frames. Chimneys and fireplaces are also a big source of draughts. The Energy Saving Trust predicts that closing an open chimney could save you £15 a year. Not bad.

## 5) Insulate

If you have the time and money, it's a good idea to insulate your loft and any cavity walls. It could shave off up to £315 from your yearly bill.

## 6) Recycle heat

There's a couple of easy, free ways that can maximise the warmth that's already in your house.

One is to leave your curtains open when it's sunny during the day (to let the heat in) and shutting them as soon as it gets dark (so it doesn't escape again).

Another is to consider leaving the oven slightly ajar after you've cooked, releasing the heat into the kitchen – take all the necessary precautions when doing this.

## 7) Doing the washing

It's a cliché, but it's true: baths do use up more hot water than showers. And obviously, the shorter the shower, the more energy you save.

When washing clothes, think about using a shorter cycle and lower temperatures. Most germs are killed at 40 degrees, meaning you don't need to go any higher when doing the laundry.

## 8) Layer up when possible

We're not advocating piling on 6 jumpers and 3 pairs of trousers instead of switching on your radiators for a couple of hours a day. However, there may be times when you can save some pennies by turning down the heat a little and pulling on your favourite sweater instead.

## 9) Boiling water

As a nation, we drink a lot of tea – 73 billion cups of it every year, apparently. And long may that tradition last. However, overfilling the kettle when brewing a cuppa uses up unnecessary energy. It might seem like nothing at the time, but it all adds up in the end.

In a similar vein, stick a lid on pots when cooking. Dinner will be ready quicker and you'll save on gas. Win win!

## 10) Think about your electricity

Lastly, don't forget to be as efficient as possible with your electricity usage. Turn off consoles when they're on stand by, you could pay £35 less every year. All money that can be used to heat up the house that little bit longer on frosty mornings instead.

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07917 815634

[moneysavingkate@outlook.com](mailto:moneysavingkate@outlook.com)

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