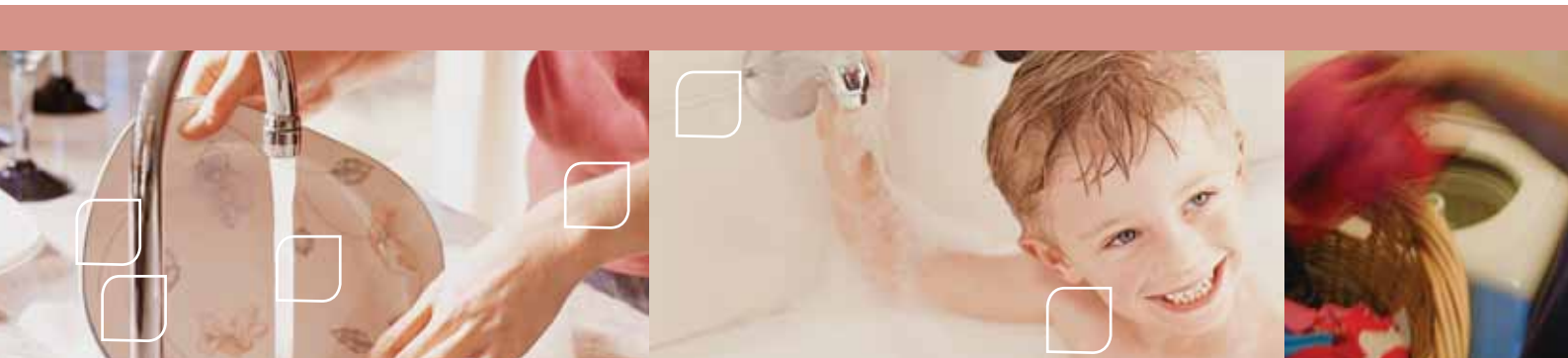




How to save money on your energy bills



This fact sheet gives you some simple ways to save energy at home. Most of the tips can also be achieved without spending a cent! If you would like further information on any tips please visit: www.energysmart.com.au/les or phone 1300 138 638 (local call cost) during business hours and ask to speak to a consultant.

SAVING ENERGY IS ALSO GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Most electricity in Australia is made by burning coal, this emits carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, trapping heat and increasing global temperatures. By saving energy you can reduce your household's greenhouse gases while saving money on your energy bill at the same time.

HOT WATER ACCOUNTS FOR UP TO HALF OF YOUR HOME'S ENERGY CONSUMPTION.

- Use cold water in your washing machine and only operate with full loads.
- A dripping tap can waste the equivalent of 10 bathtubs a month, so fix it!

- Using the suds saving facility on your washing machine will let you reuse the soapy water.

HOT HEATING TIPS

- Close doors to unused rooms when the heater is on – this can halve your heating costs.
- Turning your heater down 1°C can reduce your bill by 10%.
- Turn the heater off when you're not in the house.
- Be aware that small 'plug-in' electric heaters can be expensive to run for long periods – try to keep use to a minimum
- Close fitting curtains and blinds help reduce heat loss through windows – single panes of glass lose almost ten times more heat than the same area of insulated wall.
- Opening the curtains on your north facing windows on sunny winter days will help heat your home for free.
- Draughts can increase your heating costs by up to 25%. Use a burning incense stick or a damp hand to detect the draughts around doors and windows – you will feel or see the air movement. Look for visible light under and around doors and windows or moving curtains. A draught excluder (or 'door snake') can be used to block draughts under doors that lead outside. Inexpensive weather stripping products from hardware stores can be used to seal gaps around doors and windows.

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TIPS TO KEEP YOU COOL

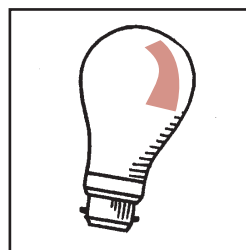
- If you have external window shading use it; awnings and external blinds are the most effective way to keep your home cool.
- On a hot day, close all blinds, curtains, windows and doors to keep out the heat.
- Open windows and ventilate the house when the outside temperature is lower than inside.
- If using an air-conditioner, keep the area you are cooling to a minimum, and close doors to unused rooms.
- Turn off the air-conditioner overnight and when you are out during the day.
- Put off jobs such as cooking, washing and ironing for a cooler time of the day.
- Keep lights used to a minimum on hot summer nights.

TIPS FOR THE KITCHEN

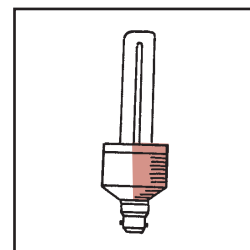
- Fridges can use a lot of energy and the lower the temperature, the more energy is consumed. Check your fridge's user manual to make sure you have it set on the correct temperature.
- Place your fridge in a cool spot, and make sure the coils at the back of the fridge get plenty of air circulation.
- Make sure your fridge door seals are airtight. Test them by closing the door over a piece of paper so it is half in and half out of the refrigerator. If you can pull the paper out easily, the hinge may need adjustment or the seal may need replacing.
- If you have a second or third fridge, turn it off when not in use.
- Much of the energy used by ovens is wasted. Use alternatives such as microwaves, electric fry pans or pressure cookers.
- Keep lids on pots and simmer gently, rather than boiling rapidly, for more efficient cooking.

TIPS FOR LIGHTING

- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Regularly clean light fittings, reflectors and lamp shades.
- Use the lowest wattage light needed to adequately light up an area.
- Consider replacing regular light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs which will last up to 10 times longer and use a lot less energy, while providing the same level of light.
- If you use outdoor sensor lights, set the programmed 'on time' to as short a period as possible.



incandescent bulb



compact fluorescent lamp

Consider replacing regular (incandescent) light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Call 1300 138 638 or 02 8281 7777 (callers outside NSW)

Email: esic@deus.nsw.gov.au

Visit (by appointment only): Level 17, 227 Elizabeth St Sydney

Post: GPO Box 3889 Sydney NSW 2001

Visit our website: www.energysmart.com.au

The Energy Smart Information Centre is a free advisory service, run by the NSW Government's Department of Energy Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS). Visit www.deus.nsw.gov.au for more information on DEUS.

For more information on energy saving advice visit www.countryenergy.com.au/calculator or call 13 23 56.