

Your DIY home energy checklist.

Assessing your main household appliances (everything inside your home).

What appliances you buy, the settings you use them on and how you use them daily make a difference to the energy consumption in your home.

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Heating and cooling check

Managing the temperature inside your home can consume a lot of energy, especially during summer and winter. It's important to choose the right type of energy efficient appliances for your situation and use them appropriately.



	Take a look at	Why?
<input type="checkbox"/> (tick box ✓)	Your heater's thermostat – Check what level your thermostat is currently set to. In winter, consider adjusting the temperature to a lower setting, and wearing warmer clothes or using extra blankets.	The temperature your heater is set at can affect your home's energy consumption. Even a one degree change in temperature can affect your energy bill by up to 10% [^] .
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your heater's timer – If your heater has a timer, make a note of when people are normally home during the day, and set it to activate only during these periods.	By reducing the overall time your heater is running, you could be reducing your energy consumption, which means less on your bills.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your heater's filter and ducts – If your heater has a filter, refer to your appliance manual for advice on cleaning and maintenance. If you have ducted heating, get a professional to regularly check the ducts to make sure they are properly sealed and clean.	A build-up of dust and dirt in your heater's filter can affect its performance, and the energy consumed to run it. If you have ducted heating, keeping your ducts clean and properly sealed could improve efficiency.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The settings on your air conditioner – What temperature is your air conditioner usually set to? Adjust the settings to cool your home to between 20–24°C.	These are the settings recommended by leading air conditioning system manufacturers. Every degree you can reduce your cooling by can affect your energy consumption by up to 10% [^] .
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your curtains and blinds – Do you normally close your blinds and curtains when operating your cooling appliances? If not, you could be missing out on potential energy savings.	When curtains and blinds are left open, the air temperature inside is more affected by outside temperatures. In summer, having open curtains and blinds could mean your cooling system has to work harder to keep your home cool thereby using more energy. Having them closed provides more insulation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	How you manage airflow – If your refrigerative air conditioner is on, shut all windows and doors to help keep the cool air in. If there's a breeze outside, you might like to try turning off your air conditioner, and let your home cool naturally.	Shutting windows and doors when your air conditioner is in use reduces the amount of cool air that escapes, reducing the energy consumed by your air conditioner.

The little changes count when it comes to energy efficiency

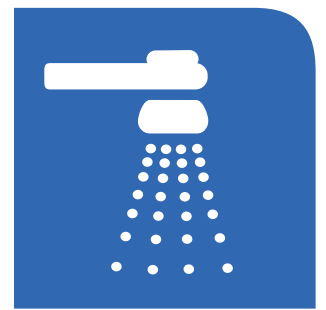
Here are three energy efficiency facts you might not know about heating and cooling.

- 1. Did you know?** A gas heater is typically cheaper to run and more efficient than a standard electric heater*.
- 2. Did you know?** Using rugs and carpets on slab floors can help retain heat in your home, reducing the energy required to be used by your heater.
- 3. Did you know?** Fans can be a cheaper way to cool your home, as they usually require less energy than air conditioners to run*.

[^]SOURCE: www.yourhome.gov.au

*SOURCE: www.livinggreener.gov.au

Hot water check



In the average Australian household, heating water can account for up to a quarter of the household's energy consumption[^]. You might like to consider some ways you can reduce your hot water consumption to help save on your hot water heating costs.

	Take a look at	Why?
<input type="checkbox"/> (tick box ✓)	Your shower – Do you have a water efficient showerhead? They're available from hardware stores. Installing one could save you hot water, and energy.	Low-flow showerheads use approximately half the water that conventional showerheads do [^] , while still maintaining an adequate level of water pressure.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The type of hot water system you have – Is your hot water system energy efficient? Consider replacing your old electric hot water system with a more energy efficient one. Look for the energy star rating. The more stars, the more efficient. Also, consider a gas hot water or even a solar hot water system.	Energy efficient hot water systems (compared to low star rated older electric hot water systems) consume less energy, release less greenhouse emissions, and can help save money on your energy bills.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your hot water storage system's thermostat settings – Check your hot water system's thermostat settings. Most storage hot water system's thermostats should be set at temperature of no less than 60°C [^] .	Every degree over 60°C means more energy consumption. Please consult a hot water expert regarding your particular hot water system's requirements.
<input type="checkbox"/>	How often you use hot water – Consider using cold water for tasks like washing dishes and laundry.	Hot water consumes energy, therefore the more household tasks you can complete without hot water can translate to energy savings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your hot water pipes – Are your hot water pipes insulated? Check with your plumber for advice.	Insulating your pipes can reduce heat loss in the time it takes to reach the source, such as your shower, sink or washing machine.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The position of your hot water system – Where is your hot water system positioned in your home? Consider moving it closer to the areas you use hot water, such as your bathroom and kitchen, to decrease the time it takes for hot water to reach your tap or showerhead.	A lot of hot water can be wasted travelling through long pipes. The one-off cost of moving your system could save you on water usage and energy in the long run.

The little changes count when it comes to energy efficiency

Here are three interesting energy facts to keep in mind when saving on hot water.

- 1. Did you know?** Avoid using small amounts of hot water if you can as each time you use hot water up to a litre or more of heated water will go cold in the pipes afterwards.
- 2. Did you know?** The one-off purchase price of an energy efficient hot water system is usually recovered within the life of the unit[^].
- 3. Did you know?** Installing shorter pipes with a smaller diameter can also help cut down energy and water usage[^].

[^]SOURCE: www.yourhome.gov.au

Appliances check



In most rooms there's an energy consuming appliance that adds to your energy bill. Simple changes to how you use and maintain these can reduce your consumption.

	Take a look at	Why?
<input type="checkbox"/> (tick box ✓)	<p>Your fridge door seals – Look at your fridge door seals by placing a piece of paper on the door edge, then shut. If the paper slides out easily, the seals might not be strong enough. In this case you may want to consider replacing them.</p>	<p>If your seals aren't secure enough, you could be losing valuable cold air, meaning your fridge has to work harder to maintain the cool temperature inside. This increases the energy consumed by your fridge.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Your dishwasher – If possible, change your dishwasher's settings so you can open the door once the wash cycle is finished, and let your dishes dry naturally. Check your appliance manual for guidance.</p>	<p>The drying cycle of your dishwasher consumes energy, whereas letting your dishes dry naturally is free.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Your freezer – Look at how thick the ice build up is on your freezer walls. If you think the ice is thicker than half a centimetre – consider defrosting it.</p>	<p>A build up in ice restricts the level of cooling that occurs, meaning your freezer has to work harder to keep everything frozen, thereby consuming more energy.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Your microwave – Is your microwave switched off? If not turn your microwave (or any other small appliances) off at the power point when not in use.</p>	<p>It's a good way to save. Look around your kitchen now to see what's on, but not being used, and what can be turned off.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Your washing machine – Do you normally wash in hot water? If so, consider washing your clothes in cold water to save energy.</p>	<p>Heating water is typically one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions from the average home*. Washing clothes in cold water means your machine is not consuming the extra energy required to heat the water.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>What's left on standby mode – Check whether any of your home entertainment appliances are left on standby mode – you can often tell as they'll have a light showing they're turned 'off'. Most computers, TVs and DVD players have this standby mode function. Consider turning off appliances at the wall instead of leaving them on standby mode.</p>	<p>Standby mode leaves these types of appliances consuming energy constantly. Turning appliances off at the wall will stop this. As an alternative consider purchasing a standby power control board, which when connected to groups of appliances – such as entertainment units – will cut standby power to all connected appliances when one of the units is turned off. These can be purchased at most hardware stores.</p>

The little changes count when it comes to energy efficiency

Here are three interesting energy facts to keep in mind when saving energy on your appliances.

1. **Did you know?** Computer screensavers do not save any energy, as your screen is still on. To save energy, switch your monitor off completely when not in use.
2. **Did you know?** Restricting ventilation around the back of your fridge can add 15% to its operating costs*.
3. **Did you know?** A standard clothes dryer adds 150kg of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Drying your washing in the sun adds none*.

#SOURCE: www.climatechange.gov.au

*SOURCE: www.livinggreener.gov.au

Lighting check



Lighting technology and design has improved significantly over the last decade, and today there are a number of energy efficient alternatives to the traditional lighting solutions. For example the Australian government has phased out traditional incandescent light globes for energy efficient alternatives, so if you haven't already, now is a great time to look at the lighting in your home.

	Take a look at	Why?
<input type="checkbox"/> (tick box ✓)	<p>How you make the most of natural lighting – If it's daytime, look around your home for what lights are on, consider if the area needs lighting, and what lighting alternatives there are.</p>	<p>Natural lighting is free. Consider opening up your blinds and curtains when it's light outside, or other alternatives that bring natural light into dark internal areas.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Your light globes – Have you considered replacing the light globes in your home with energy efficient bulbs? You can purchase compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) at your local hardware or grocery store, and in most cases they're easy to install around your home.</p>	<p>Replacing all the lights in your home with energy efficient globes could reduce the energy consumed by your lighting.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Your lights outside – Have you installed motion sensors on outside lights? Motion sensors mean your lights will turn off automatically, which is handy if you forget to turn them off at night.</p>	<p>Installing motion sensors means your lights are activated when you need them, and are using less energy when they're not on. They can act as a good security mechanism as well.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Combining light switches – Take note of any light switches that turn on more than one light. Next time you have an electrician out, consider adding extra switches so that each light can be individually turned off and on.</p>	<p>By separating your light switches you can individually turn on only the lights that you need. Less lights on means less energy being consumed.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Using individual lamps more – Do you have individual lamps in your study or living room? If not consider purchasing a few and place them around your home for lighting individual spaces and activities.</p>	<p>Using smaller lamps for tasks like reading or studying means you're lighting a smaller space compared to an entire room, potentially reducing energy consumption.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Your routine as you leave a room – Start thinking about little reminders you can use to remember to turn off lights when they're no longer required, such as when you leave a room.</p>	<p>Every light switched off helps reduce your home's energy consumption, thereby helping to reduce your electricity bill. Creating mental notes when you leave a specific room can help jog your memory, until turning off lights becomes routine.</p>

The little changes count when it comes to energy efficiency

Here are three interesting energy facts to keep in mind when looking to save on energy for lighting.

- Did you know?** Where a large room (such as a lounge room) is normally lit by two incandescent bulbs, replacing these with energy efficient compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) could reduce your lighting costs by up to 80%^.
- Did you know?** To save on energy consumption for lighting, choose light globes with a lower wattage where suitable.
- Did you know?** Consider painting rooms in light colours to help reflect natural light better, minimising the need for artificial lights.

^SOURCE: www.yourhome.gov.au