



# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Our Top Tips To Save You Energy

# LIGHTING

Lighting accounts for 6%  
of the average home's energy use



Turn your sensor  
lights off manually  
during the day.

It's the number of watts  
(not the number of volts) on  
a light fitting that tells you how  
much power the light uses. The  
higher the wattage, the more  
power is used.

Switching to energy efficient LED  
lighting could save hundreds of  
dollars on your annual energy usage.

# WATER HEATING

Water heating accounts for 21%  
of the average home's energy use

Check the settings  
on your water heater.  
Instantaneous and  
continuous flow systems  
should be set at 50°C  
while storage and solar  
systems at 60°C for  
maximum efficiency  
and safety.

If you have a  
solar hot water  
system, try taking a  
shower during the day  
or early in the evening  
to reduce the need  
for 'boosting'.

Heating water  
can be costly and use  
lots of energy. Reducing  
your shower time by four  
minutes could save \$85  
per year. Set a timer on  
your mobile phone  
to prompt you.

Washing your  
clothes using hot  
water can use 10 times  
more energy than a cold  
wash. Use the coolest  
temperature possible  
on your washing  
machine.

Why not switch  
off your hot water  
system when you go on  
holiday? When you return,  
heat and store the water  
above 60°C for at least  
35 minutes before use  
(heating may take  
a few hours).

Saving hot water  
saves energy too.  
Reduce hot water use  
by only doing a full sink  
or load of dishes, washing  
clothes in cooler water  
and switching your bath  
for a short shower.

# HEATING AND COOLING

Heating and cooling accounts for 40% of the average home's energy use

If you use an air conditioner with a temperature setting, run it at 24°C or warmer.

If your air conditioner has adjustable louvres, adjust them towards the ceiling when cooling and towards the floor when heating (as cool air falls and hot air rises).

As the days lengthen and the weather warms up, enjoy evening outdoor barbecues and picnics to avoid creating heat in your kitchen and save on cooling.

As the weather gets cooler, remember to shut your curtains at night. You can lose up to 40% of your home's heat through unprotected glass.

If you need heating overnight try an electric blanket instead of a heater. Don't forget to unplug your electric heater when it's not in use!



Cooling yourself is more energy efficient than cooling your whole home. Try to cool yourself with a glass of water or cold shower and delay turning on the air conditioning.

Clean the filters on your airconditioner regularly to help it run more efficiently.

Televisions, computers and gaming consoles can create a lot of heat. Reduce use of these devices to save power and stay cool.

When the weather is warming, set a personal goal to delay the date you switch on your air conditioner and use a fan instead.

Ceiling and pedestal fans can cost less than 2 cents per hour to run and are the most energy efficient way to cool your home. Try to cool with a fan whenever possible.

If your heater has a temperature setting, keep it set below 20°C for maximum efficiency.

Open secure windows and use fans at night instead of your airconditioner.

Reduce heater use; make a rule like only turning it on when the temperature falls below 18°C.

Try having a hot drink, putting on warm socks and using a heat pack before switching on the heater.

# APPLIANCE USE

Appliances and equipment account for 33%  
of the average home's energy use

## KITCHEN

As the holiday season wraps up switch off your spare fridge or freezer. Use the newest most efficient model and protect fridges from heat/sun.

Dry with a dish rack, not the dishwasher! Use the eco setting on your dishwasher and lightly dry with a tea towel, or allow your dishes to drain naturally.

Avoid overloading your fridge and freezer – leave about 20% free space around your food for air circulation.

Only fill your kettle with cold water, and only the amount you need.

Use your kettle instead of the stove to boil water.

Locate fridges and freezers in cool areas (away from hot garages, sheds or verandas) and out of direct sunlight to reduce their electricity use.

Use a microwave instead of your stove or oven to reheat your food. This will cut energy use and save time.

Check your fridge has a tight door seal. If a piece of paper sandwiched between the seal and the door stays in place your seals are okay.

Using a toaster instead of your electric grill to toast bread uses about 75% less energy.

Use an electric frying pan, pressure cooker or microwave as an energy efficient and cool alternative to your traditional electric oven.

Turn off your second fridge when you go away. Leaving the second fridge on could cost you \$230 per year.


Clean your rangehood or exhaust fan regularly so they run efficiently.

Food safety recommends your fridge is set between 3°C and 5°C. Every degree cooler uses 5% more energy, or an additional estimated \$5 per degree per year.

Food safety recommends your freezer is kept between -15°C and -18°C. Every degree cooler uses 5% more energy or \$5 per degree per year.

# APPLIANCE USE

## LIVING ROOM



A large screen TV (used 7 hours a day) can use more energy than a family sized fridge. Try to reduce viewing hours and ensure it is turned off at the wall when not in use.

Newer TVs come with ECO viewing options. Explore your settings and turn off the 'quick start' option and 'movie mode' as they use extra power.



Invest in a power board to easily turn off hard to reach switches. Power boards with multiple switches allow more control. Unplug extra appliances like DVD players.

DVD players, VCRs and external hard drives left plugged in can each use \$40 of electricity per year. Switch them off at the wall when not in use.

Disconnect chargers from the wall and only plug in when your device needs to be recharged. This saves energy and extends the life of your devices.

If you have more than one TV, use the smaller one for everyday viewing – like the news.

Screensavers don't save power! Power down your computer when it isn't in use, and turn off the screen when taking a short break.

Stop vampire power in its tracks – switch off all appliances at the wall and cut your electricity use by up to 10%.

# APPLIANCE USE

## OTHER AREAS IN YOUR HOME

Remove and reduce forgotten power users from your bathroom.

Turn off heat lamps, limit hairdryers and unplug any electric toothbrushes.

Switch off your mobile phone and other devices at the wall when they've finished charging.

Did you know a clothes dryer can use up to \$95 of electricity per year? If you need to use a clothes dryer, spin clothes well or part dry them on the washing line first.

Did you know that generally a laptop computer uses less energy than a desktop?

The average desktop computer can cost more than \$150 a year in running costs. Try to shut down and unplug the computer whenever you're not using it.

If you use a clothes dryer use the medium setting instead of high: it takes a little longer but uses less energy and is less damaging to your clothes.



© Hornsby Electric

**HORNSBY  
ELECTRIC**   
*Electricians with integrity*