

Energy saving tips



A typical household has around 70 appliances in the home. Each one costs money to run, and some even cost money when they aren't being used.

This factsheet offers some simple tips to help reduce the size of your electricity bill at the end of the quarter.

Every household is different. But generally, the **three appliances** which use the most energy are:

-  Air conditioning
-  Hot water system
-  Fridge

1. Keeping cool on a budget



Air-conditioners use a lot of electricity. But there are ways to save energy while still keeping cool.

- ✓ **Set the temperature:** In summer, set your air-conditioner to between 24°C and 26°C. Every degree below this adds 10 per cent to your cooling costs.
- ✓ **Close off rooms:** Only cool the rooms that are being used, and keep doors and windows closed.
- ✓ **Keep the heat out:** In summer, close curtains and shade windows during the day to prevent heat from entering the home.
- ✓ **Use fans:** Use ceiling or pedestal fans where possible.
- ✓ **Let cool air in:** Open windows at night to let air circulate and cool the house down.

2. Reduce hot water usage

You can reduce the cost of heating water in your home with the following tips:

- ✓ **Shorter showers:** Try reducing shower times to four minutes or less.
- ✓ **Water efficiency:** Install a low-flow shower head and get water efficient devices attached to internal taps.
- ✓ **Use cold water where possible:** You can use cold water to rinse dishes and for washing your clothes.
- ✓ **Check for faults:** Regularly check your hot water system for faults, such as visible leaks around the storage unit.
- ✓ **Wash full loads:** Only use your dishwasher or washing machine when you have enough for a full load.

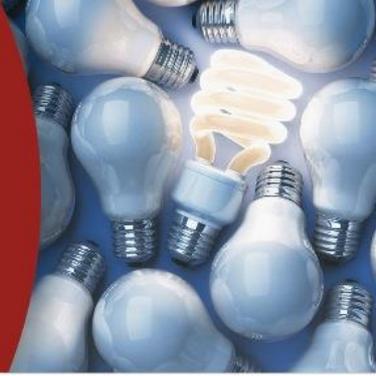
Tip



Use cold water in the washing machine. Almost all stains and dirt can be easily removed in cold water.

To wash in cold water, select the cold water cycle and make sure the hot water tap is turned off.

Energy Factsheet



3. Reduce the running costs for your fridge



Check out these tips to reduce the cost of running your fridge.

- ✓ **Check the temperature setting:** Set your fridge between 3°C and 5°C, and your freezer between -15°C and -18°C.
- ✓ **Get rid of your second fridge** or at least turn it off when not in use.
- ✓ **Upgrade your fridge:** Some old fridges use up to *three times* more electricity than a new fridge. You might be able to access a No Interest Loan to purchase a more energy efficient model. Visit www.nils.com.au.
- ✓ **Check the door seals:** If your door seals are worn out, your fridge may be leaking cold air and costing you more to run.

Tip



Check your door seals by putting a piece of paper in between the seal and the door before closing it.

If the paper slides out easily, the door seals may need replacing.

What else do I need to know?

Even if you reduce your electricity usage to zero, you will still get a bill.

Every household in Queensland pays a daily service charge which is currently around \$0.98 per day (or \$89 per quarter) including GST. Being more energy efficient won't help reduce this cost - it is fixed.

If you have reduced your usage and are still struggling to pay your bills, contact your retailer for advice and assistance.

More quick tips

- ✓ **Turn it off:** Turn off lights and appliances when you are not using them. Remember to turn appliances off at the main wall socket as standby power uses energy too.
- ✓ **Washing cycles:** Only use the dishwasher and washing machine when they are full, and always use the shortest, most efficient cycle.
- ✓ **Air drying:** Clothes dryers are expensive to use. Try placing clothes on a rack indoors and drying them with a fan. This option is good if it is raining outside.
- ✓ **Outdoor lighting:** Consider solar lights or sensor lights rather than leaving outside lights on overnight.
- ✓ **What else is there?** Consider what else might be using electricity. Do you have a pool pump, plasma TV or fish tank? How many TVs, game consoles, air conditioners or heaters do you have? These things all impact on your energy bill.

Useful links

QCROSS Community Door:
www.communitydoor.org.au/energy

Energy Made Easy:
www.energymadeeasy.gov.au

Queensland Government:
www.derm.qld.gov.au

Energy and Water Ombudsman Qld:
www.ewoq.com.au

No Interest Loan Scheme:
www.nils.com.au

Energy Rating:
www.energyrating.gov.au