



We are independent. Our complaint resolution service is free, fair and easy to use. If we can't help you, we will tell you about someone who can.

## Know your usage

To learn how much energy you use in your home, you can do a home energy audit.

This will help you find ways to cut your usage and your bills.

Borrow a [Home Energy Toolkit](#) from your local library or visit [www.sa.gov.au/topics/energy-and-environment/using-saving-energy/home-energy-audits/do-a-home-energy-audit](http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/energy-and-environment/using-saving-energy/home-energy-audits/do-a-home-energy-audit)

## Know how to save

### *Appliances*

Leaving appliances on standby – when the light is on – adds up to 7% or \$170 a year to your energy bill.

- Turn off computers and game consoles at the wall.
- When buying new appliances, use the energy rating labels to choose the most efficient ones. The more stars the more savings.
- Compare products and running costs with the Energy Rating calculator at [www.energyrating.gov.au/calculator](http://www.energyrating.gov.au/calculator).

### *Heating and cooling*

Heating and cooling use up to 40% of your home's energy. Using a large heater for six hours a day can add around \$360 to your winter bill.

- Use fans – they cost around 4 cents per hour.
- If you use an air conditioner, set it to 24-27°C in summer and 18-21°C in winter – every degree outside this increases costs by 10%.
- Choose a heater/cooler that turns off when it reaches the set temperature.
- Only heat/cool the rooms you're using.

- Make sure you have good ventilation, then use door snakes, curtains and draught-proof strips to keep the heat in – around a third of your home's heat escapes through draughts.
- Some heaters are cheaper to buy but more costly to run. Check the independent reviews at [choice.com.au/home-and-living/heating](http://choice.com.au/home-and-living/heating)
- Use free heating and cooling! In Winter, open curtains and blinds to let sunshine in during the day and close them at night to keep the heat in.
- In summer, close curtains and shade windows during the day to stop the sun heating your home and open windows at night.
- Install insulation in the ceilings and walls. If you already have it, get a licensed installer to check it and make sure it's working.

### *Lighting*

Lighting can use around 7% of your home's energy.

- Turn lights off when you leave a room.
- Switch to low-energy LED lighting – the bulbs cost more, but they last longer and are cheaper to run.
- Choose the lowest wattage globes you can.
- Use sensor lights outside so they only switch on when you're nearby.
- At party time, use LED lighting and turn the lights off overnight.
- Use natural light as much as possible – open curtains and blinds when it's not too hot.

### *Fridges and freezers*

Fridges and freezers can account for around 8% of your home's energy. A second fridge or freezer can add \$300 a year to your energy bill.

To get the most out of your fridge:

- keep it in a cool, ventilated position away from direct sun
- set the fridge temperature at 3-5°C and the freezer temperature at -15°-18°C
- clean it regularly and keep it frost free and tightly sealed.

### *Cooking*

- Use only the water you need in cooking pots.
- Boil water in your kettle first, then put it in your pot for cooking.
- Use smaller kitchen appliances when you can – eg use the microwave instead of the oven.
- Put lids on saucepans to keep in the heat.
- Only boil the water you need – don't fill your kettle for one cup of tea.
- Wash vegetables in a bowl or bucket and reuse the water on your plants.
- Replace oven door seals that are not in good condition.

### *Bathroom & laundry*

Heating water for bathrooms, the kitchen and the laundry can account for 23% of your home's energy use.

- When you need a new water heater, consider solar – learn more at [yourhome.gov.au/energy/hot-water-service](http://yourhome.gov.au/energy/hot-water-service)
- Reduce water use by using water efficient showerheads and taps. This can save 10 litres of water per minute and reduce your energy costs.
- Showers use less water than baths if they are under 10 minutes. Keep them shorter and save even more water and energy.
- Choose an energy efficient washing machine and a water efficient tap – check products at [waterrating.gov.au](http://waterrating.gov.au).
- Wash full loads – and switch to cold water to save up to \$124 a year. Hot or warm wash cycles use more energy.
- Dry your washing in the sun – its free!

- If you must use a dryer, spin dry your load first to get rid of as much water as possible.
- Clean the lint filter after every use so your dryer runs efficiently.
- Don't overload it or leave it on longer than needed.

### *Plumbing*

- Fix leaking toilets and taps. A tap dripping 45 times per minute wastes around 24,000 litres a year. If it's a hot water tap, you're wasting energy too.
- Toilets use a lot of water. Older models use up to 12 litres per flush. Dual-flush toilets use 3.5 litres per half flush.
- Check the toilet's cistern for leaks by watching for water flowing after you flush.

### *Cleaning*

- Wash your car at a car wash that recycles water.
- If you do it at home, do it on your lawn, not your driveway so your lawn gets watered too!
- Use a broom or rake to clean driveways and footpaths – don't hose them down.

### *Gardening*

- Use mulch to reduce weeds and keep water in the soil. Without mulch, you lose up to 70% of water in evaporation.
- Use recycled household water on your plants and use watering cans or trigger nozzles so you only water where you need to.
- Plant native plants that flourish without much water.
- Water in the morning or evening and water the roots, not the leaves.

### *Pools*

- Keep your pool covered to prevent evaporation and save 30,000L of water a year.
- Use the most energy efficient pump for your pool or spa's size and check for leaks.

For more help, see [www.sa.gov.au /topics/energy-and-environment/using-saving-energy](http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/energy-and-environment/using-saving-energy) or [www.yourhome.gov.au/energy](http://www.yourhome.gov.au/energy).