

### Appliances

- > Purchase energy efficient appliances such as fridges and washing machines. Look for the highest energy rating and buy the right size for your needs.
- > Standby energy – turn off appliances such as TVs, stereos, microwaves, etc. at the power point or ‘off’ button when not in use.

### Refrigeration

- > Check that fridge thermostat setting isn't too low (3°C for refrigerators and -15°C for freezers).
- > Locate the fridge away from heat sources such as direct sun and the oven.
- > Make sure coils at the rear of the fridge are cleaned regularly. Defrost a manual defrost fridge whenever the thickness of ice exceeds a few millimetres.
- > Put cold items immediately back into the fridge and limit the amount of times you open the door.
- > Check the seals on the fridge – they should be able to hold a piece of paper firmly in place.
- > Maintain good ventilation around the back of your refrigerator by pulling it away from the wall and avoiding tight spaces
- > Fridges are heavy consumers of electricity. Avoid having a second ‘drinks’ fridge

### Clothes washing and drying

- > Wash clothes in cold water.
- > Avoid washing small loads of clothes.
- > Avoid using a clothes dryer – use a clothes horse or outside line. If you must use a dryer ensure that your clothes are properly spin dried beforehand.

### Cooking

- > Check seals on the oven – they should be able to hold a piece of paper firmly in place.
- > When cooking use only as much heat as is required.
- > Cover pots and pans and reduce the heat.
- > Avoid opening the oven – each time you open it the temperature drops 14-16 degrees.
- > If you live in a share household try to cook communally rather than cooking individually.
- > Wherever possible use the microwave in preference to the oven, a kettle rather than a pot on the stove and use a toaster rather than the griller as it is much more efficient.
- > Don't let things cool so you have to reheat them, including the kettle.

### Lighting

- > Install compact fluorescent lights in rooms where lights are left on for longer periods, such as living rooms and kitchens (remember to take them with you when you move)
- > Turn lights off when you are not in the room – even compact fluorescent lights.

### Green power

- > Purchase green power. You can now purchase all of your electricity from renewable sources through accredited Green Power suppliers for a small, additional charge.

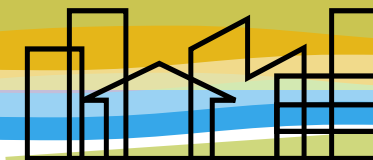
[www.greenhouse.gov.au](http://www.greenhouse.gov.au)



Australian Government

Department of the  
Environment and Heritage  
Australian Greenhouse Office

## Low or no cost energy efficiency improvements for renters



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There are a whole range of actions that renters can take to reduce energy use at home and increase comfort without big bills. For little or no cost you can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and cut your gas and electricity bills.

Remember that in certain situations it might be necessary to get the landlord's permission to make alterations. Sometimes the owner of the property will be willing to pay for materials for improvements if you provide the labour. However, large savings are easily gained through basic changes, such as washing clothes in cold rather than warm water or changing the thermostat temperature on your heating or cooling system.

In most states the landlord is obliged to maintain the property and the appliances and services within the property such as fixed heating and cooling, hot water, ovens etc. If there is a problem contact the landlord or agent. Alternatively, contact a representative from your state department of consumer affairs or housing and seek their advice on getting non-urgent repairs to the property.

### How you can save on energy bills with little or no cost:

Here are just some examples of how making small changes to your behaviour or installing some simple low cost items can save you money on energy bills.

#### Hot water

Installing a AAA rated shower head can save your household as much as \$100 per year and is easy to install yourself.

#### Heating and cooling

Each degree higher that you set your thermostat in winter and each degree cooler in summer adds 10% to your heating and cooling costs

Washing your clothes in cold rather than warm water can save you up to \$70 per year.

#### Lighting and Appliances

Compare the difference between standard incandescent light globes and compact fluorescent lights.

	20W CFL	100W Incandescent
<b>Running cost over 10,000 hours</b>	\$19.20	\$96
<b>Average life</b>	8,000	1,000
<b>Purchase cost</b>	\$20 for 1 lamp	\$4 for 8 bulbs at 50c
<b>Total cost for 1 lamp</b>	\$39.20	\$100

Based on 12c per KWH  
Figures provided by Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd

#### Appliances

Standby energy use on appliances such as computers, stereos and TVs can be up to 80W when added together – this could cost you up to \$85 per year! (look for little LED lights or clocks – when in doubt switch it off)

New fridges with a high star rating can cost as little as \$30 per year to operate compared \$175 per year for some older refrigerators.

#### The following are low or no cost options for reducing energy use in your home.

##### Hot water

- > Check that the thermostat setting on the hot water system is not too high. The optimum temperature for most existing hot water systems is 60 degrees.
- > Check the amount of water from the overflow pipe. A typical amount of overflow is around 10 litres per day. If the overflow is excessive contact the landlord or agent to have it looked at.

- > Take shorter showers – try to reduce them to 3-4 minutes.
- > Install a AAA rated shower head – This is a low cost action that will produce large energy savings.
- > Fix dripping taps and install flow restrictors or arrange with your landlord to have them fixed.
- > Turn the hot water system off when away on holidays, including the pilot light.

#### Heating and Cooling

- > Check the thermostat setting on the heating or cooling system
  - Recommended temperature setting for a heated room is 18-20°C
  - Each degree above increases energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions by 10%
  - Recommended temperature setting for air conditioning is 25-27°C
  - Every degree below this thermostat setting will result in 10% more energy use.
- > Put up thick lined curtains to prevent heat loss in winter.
- > Place a rolled towel or blanket over the top of curtains to create a simple pelmet to prevent heat loss
- > Shade windows exposed to the hot summer sun using a material such as shade cloth to prevent heat entering. When it cools in the evening open up the windows and doors to allow breezes to cool the house.
- > Seal draughts around windows and doors and open fire places. This can be done with inexpensive weather seal or door snakes.
- > Shade air conditioners from direct sunlight using shade cloth or plants – make sure there is still enough air flow around the unit.