

# Checklist of energy efficiency improvements

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



**Australian Government**  
Department of the  
Environment and Heritage  
Australian Greenhouse Office



**Australian Government**  
Department of the  
Environment and Heritage  
Australian Greenhouse Office

## What you can do

Maintenance  
or capital

Maintenance  
or capital

### Hot water

- > Replace hot water system with more energy efficient variety –replace an electric storage system with a gas storage or gas instantaneous hot water system and put the new system closer to the points of use to prevent heat loss
- > Install efficient water fixtures such as low flow taps and AAA rated shower heads
- > Service and repair hot water systems regularly to ensure continued efficient operation –check the pressure relief valve for excessive overflow and make sure the thermostat is working correctly
- > Repair leaking or damaged water fixtures – this can save up to 100kg of greenhouse gases per year
- > Install insulation on hot water pipes – Insulation needs to be at least 10mm thick

C

C or M

M

M

C or M

### Heating and Cooling

- > Service and repair heating and cooling equipment –repair damaged ducting, check the accuracy of thermostats, clean filters and repair air conditioner components such as compressors
- > Install draught stoppers and seal cracks and gaps in floorboards, walls and around doors and windows
- > Install an energy efficient heating system – Often rental properties have no heating system installed resulting in the tenants using very inefficient portable electric heating devices that also present a greater fire hazard. Installation of an efficient gas space heater can result in considerable energy savings and reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- > Install an energy efficient cooling system – many older wall mounted air conditioners use much more energy than current models with high star energy ratings. Evaporative coolers are more energy efficient than refrigerative coolers, but might not be suitable for humid climates.

M

M

C

C

- > Install ceiling fans for cooling in summer and heat redistribution in winter
- > Install insulation – installing insulation in the roof cavity alone can reduce energy requirements greatly. Insulating the heating ducts ensures that heat is directed to the area you want heated and is not lost in delivery.
- > Install double glazing – provides additional benefits of sound proofing as well as temperature regulation
- > Install blinds and awnings
- > Erect pergola or similar external shading devices
- > Create heating and cooling zones by installing doors to allow heat retention in winter and ventilation in summer

C

C or M

C

C

C

C

### Lighting and Appliances

- > Rewire a property to create energy efficient 'zoning' of lighting or replace inefficient fixtures such as halogen downlights
- > In furnished apartments, replace older inefficient varieties of appliances with models with a high star rating (for example refrigerators, dishwashers and clothes dryers)
- > Ensure all appliances are working efficiently – for example repair damaged seals on ovens and fridges

C

C

M

The Information contained in this publication is of a general nature only. Information provided in this document should not be relied on for taxation purposes. The Commonwealth recommends that you seek independent advice before acting on any Information.

Whilst the Commonwealth has made every effort to ensure that the Information is free from error, the Commonwealth does not guarantee, and accepts no legal liability whatsoever arising from or connected to, the accuracy, reliability, currency or completeness of any material contained herein.