



Energy Efficiency at Home

Reducing energy bills and increasing comfort

Draught Proofing

Finding and fixing draughts will make your home more comfortable and energy efficient and save you money. Up to 25% of winter heat loss is caused by draughts which also allow hot air to enter during summer.

Finding Draughts

- Look for obvious gaps
- Listen for rattles and whistling
- Feel for moving air
- Look for movement in curtains

Sealing gaps

- Doors - use door 'snakes' and commercial draught stoppers to properly seal doors
- Windows - seal windows with draught strips and use heavy curtains and pelmets
- Seal gaps around walls and floors
- Block chimney draughts and seal evaporative cooler outlets

Be aware of safety issues if you have a flueless gas heater or open flued gas appliances. They need fixed ventilation to operate safely. Consult a plumber.

For detailed information see Sustainability Victoria website www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/You-and-Your-Home/Save-energy

Check your insulation

A lot of heat loss in a home is due to poor insulation in the roof and walls. Check that the ceiling and walls are adequately insulated. Top up where insulation is running thin.

Lighting

LEDs are the most efficient forms of lighting and will cost far less to run than halogen and other incandescent lights. Reduce energy bills by replacing halogen lights with LEDs.

Windows

Prevent heat loss through windows by having well fitted heavy curtains with enclosed pelmet. Close curtains or blinds when heating is on, especially at night. Prevent heat gain in summer by shading east, west and north facing windows. Open windows on summer evenings when cool changes arrive to cool house.

External shading is much more effective at keeping your home cool. East and west facing windows - use adjustable shading devices such as blinds or shutters. North facing windows - use fixed horizontal devices such as eaves or pergolas.

Reduce your hot water costs

Common sense ways to reduce the amount of hot water you use and pay for

1. Install a low-flow shower head
2. Take shorter showers. Use a shower timer
3. Wash your clothes in cold water where possible
4. Fix dripping taps
5. Insulate exposed hot water pipes with closed-cell rubber insulation, available from hardware store

DID YOU KNOW?

Water heating is one of the biggest energy users in the house. On average it accounts for 16 - 20% of total household energy use.

Energy Efficient Hot Water Systems

Electric hot water systems are the cheapest to buy but the most expensive to run. Efficient hot water systems such as solar or heat pump will reduce energy costs significantly. State Government Incentives are available for these systems thus reducing the capital cost.

Solar hot water

A solar hot water system uses the sun's energy to heat water which means a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Heat pump hot water

A very efficient electric storage tank system that uses heat from the surrounding air to heat water in a storage tank. They work on the same principle as reverse-cycle air conditioners and use much less electricity than electric storage water heaters. They will also heat water when the sun is not shining.