



Keeping a rental house comfortable and energy efficient

Some of the most effective steps you can take to save energy have no financial cost to you. Energy efficiency is about using less energy to provide the same level of comfort and convenience.

Seal up gaps and draughts

Stop draughts by sealing gaps around doors and windows. Self-adhesive door and window seals are cheap, easy to install and removable when you leave. Or you could use a 'door snake'. Check also around door and window frames and skirting boards.

Improve window efficiency

Prevent heat loss by having close fitting curtains and blinds to trap a layer of air next to the window. Open curtains in winter to let sun in during the day but close them at night.

On hot summer days close all windows, curtains and doors to help keep the house cool. Take advantage of cool changes by opening windows and doors to let cool breezes in.

Shade your windows

External shading of windows is a very effective way to keep heat out. Place a removable blind, shade cloth or outdoor umbrella over north or west-facing windows in summer to shield them from the sun.

Use heating and air conditioning wisely

Correct thermostat settings can significantly reduce heating and cooling costs. One degree adjustment can make 10% difference to energy used.

When using air conditioner or heater, close off the rooms you are not using by shutting internal doors.

Winter: set thermostat to 20°C.

Summer: set thermostat to 25°C -26°C

Use ceiling or pedestal fans before air conditioning

Fans cost a few cents per hour to run and the air movement makes you feel cooler.

Fans also improve the effectiveness of heating and cooling systems by circulating air.

Standby Power

Many appliances and gadgets, phone chargers, game consoles, TV's, and stereos, continue to use energy when not in use. If it's got a little standby light or a clock, it's using power. Switch appliances and gadgets off at the wall when finished using them and you will reduce your energy bills.

Switch to energy efficient lighting

You should not need your landlord's permission to change your globes to LED's. Most types of lights are now available as energy efficient LED's. Keep the globes you replace so that if you move you can take the LED's with you. Remember - turn off the lights when you leave the room!

Choose energy efficient appliances

If buying a new appliance consider purchasing an energy efficient one. Look for the energy rating labels and buy the one with the most stars. Energy efficient appliances will make a big difference to your energy consumption and bills.

Fridges and freezers

The optimal temperature for your fridge is between 3°C and 5°C or between -15°C and -18°C for your freezer. Every degree lower requires 5% more energy. Improve efficiency of freezer by removing any frost build up.

If you have a second fridge for entertaining, only turn it on when you need it.

Washing and drying clothes

When using a washing machine save energy by using cold water and the shortest cycle, and wait until you have enough clothes for a full load. Dry clothes on the clothes line (or clothes rack) instead of in an electric clothes dryer - it's cost free.

Energy savings with hot water

Invest in a low flow showerhead that you can take with you if you leave. Take shorter showers, 4 minutes only. Use a shower timer and reduce use of water and electricity.

Make sure your water heater is set at 60°C for a tank system and 50°C or lower for an instantaneous system. If it is set too high it is wasting energy.

Insulate exposed hot water pipes with closed-cell rubber insulation, available from hardware stores .

Victorian Government Energy Reforms

Your energy retailer must now tell you if you're on your retailer's best energy plan for your circumstances. They also have to tell you how much you could save by switching to the best energy plan they offer and provide updates on their best offer at least once every four months. All energy plans now have energy fact sheets that estimate how much the plan costs for a small, medium and large household.

For further information visit

www.esc.vic.gov.au/getting-best-energy-plan

Victorian Default Offer

For details and tips for households visit

www.energy.vic.gov.au/victoriandefaultoffer

Shop around for better electricity rates

Check if you can get a better deal from your current retailer or other retailers. Ask if you can get any special offers or concessions. Visit the Victorian Energy Compare website to compare various offers from different retailers and receive a \$50 credit for using the site.

www.compare.energy.vic.gov.au