

KEEPING POWER COSTS DOWN



Dry your washing outside to save power and reduce condensation.

A big power bill is unpleasant at any time of the year, but it can be especially tough in winter.

Here are some easy ways to cut down on power, helping you save cash and the environment.

Remember to take a sensible approach to power saving, and don't let yourself get so cold in winter that your health is affected.

Turn off:

- Lights if you leave a room for more than 1 minute.
- All appliances at the wall instead of leaving them on standby.
- Mobile phone chargers when you've finished using them. Things like lights and appliances left on unnecessarily wastes about \$100 of power a year!

Open a window a little when showering or cooking, or use an extractor fan if you have one installed. The less moisture in the air, the easier it is to heat.

Keep lids on pots when you're cooking, and make sure the lids fit well, as this saves energy and reduces steam in the kitchen. Match the pot size to the element.

Use energy-saving settings on washing machines, clothes dryers, dishwashers and fridges when available.

Stop cold air sneaking under your doors by making a 'door snake' (stuff old rugby socks with scrap material).

Open curtains in the morning and close them just before dark to keep in the warmth.

Keep your windows clean and the sun will be more effective in warming your home.

Wash your clothes with cold water and only do a full wash. This could save you more than \$100 a year (based on 20 washes a month).

Use cold water when you're rinsing dishes and filling the jug. Boil only enough water as you need. If you do

have boiled water left over in the jug, pour it into a thermos for use later.

Replace the light bulbs you use the most with energy-efficient ones. Housing New Zealand recommends Ecobulbs, which cost around \$6 each, but last up to 10 times longer. This can save around \$65 a year.

Have a quick shower. If a family of four reduced their showers by two minutes each a day, they'd save \$84 a year.

Dry your washing outside or set up a covered area outside for clothes drying. Drying clothes inside releases moisture into the air and makes it harder to heat.

Look to the stars when buying new appliances. The more stars an energy rating label has the less energy it will use.

Use thermostats and timers so your heaters only come on when you need them and automatically turn off once the right temperature is reached.

Use a microwave for cooking as much as possible, because they use less power than conventional ovens.

Pay for your power as you go. Most power companies offer pre-paid meters, which help you control your power usage. With a pre-pay meter you pay for your electricity as you use it instead of getting a bill each month.

Low-user price plans are designed for small households or low power users (less than 8,000kWh a year), and offer significant savings. Ask your power supplier if a low-user plan is right for you.

Talk to us. Housing New Zealand can help by replacing washers on leaky hot water taps, turning down the water temperature at the tap if you feel it's too hot, or installing a low-flow shower head. Call us free any time on 0800 801 601, or visit www.hnzc.co.nz

If you have a hearing impairment, you can contact us using the NZ Relay Service on www.nzrelay.co.nz, or you can fax 0800 201 202.

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If you would like more details about any information in this fact sheet, or have any queries about Housing New Zealand, please call our Customer Services Centre free, any time on **0800 801 601**, or visit our website www.hnzc.co.nz

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