

YOU'VE GOT THE POWER TO CHOOSE HOW YOU USE ENERGY

There are simple actions you can take every day and night to use energy more efficiently, and save money at the same time.

These actions will help you have a warmer, drier and healthier home that costs less to run.

You'll be able to *feel* your home become healthier and more comfortable as you change how you use energy, but to see how much you're saving, you need to work out what you pay on power to run your house. That way you'll be able to track how much you're saving as you become more energy efficient.

www.energywise.govt.nz has a calculator to help you get an idea about which household appliances are responsible for using the most electricity. It'll work out what they're costing you to run, based on how you are operating them and your basic electricity cost. It offers tips for how to improve your energy efficiency – and you can print out an action plan to get you started.

You can also look at the costs of using various appliances on the Consumer website www.consumer.org.nz

GET STARTED WITH THESE ACTIONS IN YOUR HOME

- **Switch it off** – turning appliances off at the wall instead of leaving them on standby can save you more than \$100 a year. Remember to unplug your chargers too when you've finished using them.
- **Buy bright** – replace your four most-used bulbs with energy efficient ones. They cost around \$6 each but last up to 10 times longer. Doing this can save around \$65 a year.
- **Use thermostats and timers** so your heaters, including heat pumps, only come on when you need them and automatically turn off once the right temperature is reached.
- **Check your hot water temperature** at the tap – it should be at 55 degrees Celsius. An extra 10 degrees, for example, could cost you up to \$140 a year. You may need an electrician or a plumber to adjust your thermostat.
- **Save water and energy** – install an energy efficient, low-flow shower head. This could save you up to \$500 a year if you use a lot of hot water.
- **Make use of the sun** – dry your clothes on the clothes line whenever possible instead of using a dryer. Keeping windows clean and free from overhanging trees is another way of taking advantage of sunlight to warm your home.
- **Stop draughts** sneaking in and out under doors with a draught stopper. Block your fireplace off too if you are not using it.
- **Choose when you use** – instead of having your heated towel rail on continuously, use it for only a few hours per day. You can save \$70-\$140 a year by doing this.

- **Rinse dishes with cold water** instead of rinsing them under the hot tap.
- **Close the curtains** just before dark to keep the heat in.
- **Pull the plug on your second fridge** – you can save up to \$300 a year by getting rid of your old inefficient beer fridge or freezer.
- **Use the right sized saucepan** for the element when you are cooking, so heat doesn't escape around the sides. And use a lid to keep the heat in.
- **Stop the drips** – fix any dripping hot taps by replacing the washer or the fitting.

For more information on how to make your home warmer, drier, healthier and more energy efficient, see our other ENERGYWISE™ action sheets or visit www.energywise.govt.nz

Action sheet number	Title
1	The power to choose
2	Insulate your home
3	Save money on your home appliances
4	Make the most of your hot water system
5	Make your home warmer & healthier
6	Travel more energy efficiently
7	Government funding available
8	Save energy & money heating your swimming pool
9	Choose a heat pump (& use it smartly)

SAVE MONEY ON THE ROAD TOO!

How you drive and look after your car can save you up to 20 percent on your fuel bill.

- **Plan your travel** – you use 20 percent more fuel when the engine is cold so making a lot of short trips is not an efficient way to travel.
- **Care for your car** and keep it well maintained – regularly check your wheel alignment, engine timing, air filter and spark plugs. And watch your tyre pressure, if it's too low you could be wasting 5 percent of your fuel. If you don't know your tyre pressure, many cars have the correct tyre pressure information on the post you see when you open the driver's door.
- **Consider public transport** options in your area, including cheaper rates for ten trip tickets and off-peak travel.
- **Slow down** – as well as increasing accident risks, driving over the speed limit on the open road increases fuel costs by up to 10 percent. If you're driving fast enough to be fined for speeding then the fuel cost will be significantly more.
- **Drive smoothly and look ahead** – check what's happening, maintain a safe following distance and you'll keep at a more constant speed. This uses less fuel than accelerating and braking all the time.
- **Watch your air con** – having the air-conditioning on uses up to 10 percent more fuel.
- **Keep the load down** – each 50kg of extra weight increases fuel consumption by around 2 percent.

For more information on your car's fuel consumption and how to be more fuel efficient, visit www.fuelsaver.govt.nz



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