

YOU'VE GOT THE POWER TO CHOOSE

It's easy to choose to have an energy efficient home that is warmer, drier and healthier, costs less to run and has less impact on our environment.

This list will help you think through the way your home is insulated, the systems and appliances you choose and how you're using energy in your home. And it offers a few suggestions for ways you can make improvements. You have the power to choose – tick the areas where you will take action.

INSULATION

Improving your home's insulation makes it easier and cheaper to heat. It's one of the most important steps you can take towards having a warmer, drier, healthier and more energy efficient home.

Action	Potential savings every year	Tick
Install insulation in your ceiling and under the floors.	Keep up to 30% more heat in your home.	
Check and if necessary improve your existing insulation. It might be damp, incorrectly fitted, uneven or have gaps.	Poor installation, even small gaps, can reduce the performance by as much as 50%.	

More effective insulation can also mean fewer visits to the doctor and fewer days off work and school due to ill health. ENERGYWISE™ action sheet 2 has more information on insulation, and which product to choose.

THE SYSTEMS YOU USE



Heating your hot water uses around 30% of your annual energy bill. Making savings here can have a real impact on your household costs.

Action	Potential savings every year	Tick
Fit a cylinder wrap. Cost – around \$80.	\$20 – \$140 depending on your cylinder type.	
Install an energy efficient shower head. Cost – around \$80.	Up to \$500.	
Consider installing solar water heating.	A well designed and installed solar hot water heating system can save you up to 75% on your annual hot water bills.	
Work out the size and type of heating that is best for you.	Understanding your heating requirements will help you get the best energy efficiency and value for money.	

ENERGYWISE™ action sheet 4 has more information on water heating, and ENERGYWISE™ action sheet 5 has more information on heating your home.

THE APPLIANCES YOU USE

It's easy to choose energy efficiency when you buy appliances. Look for these labels that give you useful information on how much energy an appliance uses.

The label and what it tells you	Potential savings every year	Tick
 <p>The Energy Rating Label gives you information on how much energy a product uses so you can compare between models. Every whiteware appliance and heat pump sold in New Zealand must display this label.</p>	Each extra star means an extra 10% or more saving in running costs.	
 <p>The blue ENERGY STAR® mark is the independent, international benchmark for energy efficiency – awarded to the most energy efficient products in each category. You'll currently find it on washing machines, dishwashers, heat pumps, home electronics and computers. And it's coming soon on fridges and freezers.</p>	For example, an ENERGY STAR® qualified heat pump unit can give you up to \$4.50 worth of heating value for every dollar you spend, while a lower efficiency unit may only give you \$2.50 worth.	

ENERGYWISE™ action sheet 3 has more information on choosing and using appliances and home electronics.

HOW YOU USE ENERGY

There are lots of actions you can take to get better value from the energy you buy. For example:

Action	Potential savings every year	Tick
Switch off or get rid of your spare fridge. Cost – it's free.	Up to \$215.	
Use a clothesline rather than a dryer. Cost – it's free.	Around \$130.	
Use your heated towel rail for just a few hours a day, instead of all the time. Cost – it's free.	\$70 – \$140.	
Replace your four most-used bulbs with energy efficient ones. Cost – around \$6 each but watch for specials.	Around \$75.	
Turn appliances off instead of leaving them on standby. Cost – it's free.	\$75 – \$200.	
Use cold water for laundry. Cost – it's free.	Around \$50.	

Visit www.energywise.govt.nz for more ways to save energy at home.
Because you've got the power to choose.



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