

make real savings with top tips from energy saving week 2013

Low cost tips

1. Draught excluder

Unless your home is very new, you're likely to be losing some heat through draughts around doors and windows, gaps around the floor, maybe up a chimney or two, and a whole host of other little holes around the house.

So why not buy some proper draught-proofing products for the doors and windows, seal your skirting boards with silicone sealant, and fit a chimney draught excluder or sealed fire guards? DIY draught proofing of windows, doors and blocking cracks in floors and skirting boards could cost up to £115, but could save **£55** a year in a draughty home, so these works can pay for themselves in just over two years.

2. Turn it off

Try to be aware of unnecessary lights left on, and appliances left plugged-in or on standby. Nearly all electrical and electronic appliances can safely be turned off at the plug without upsetting their systems – some satellite and digital TV recorders may need to be left plugged in so they can keep track of any programmes you want to record – but check the instructions on any appliances you aren't sure about.

A typical household could save between **£50** and **£90** a year just by remembering to turning off appliances left on standby.

3. Careful in the kitchen

You can save over **£55** a year¹ just by being careful how you use your kitchen appliances. The following tips can help you reach this saving:

- ✔ Set your washing machine to wash at 30°C.
- ✔ Using a bowl to wash up rather than leaving the hot tap running.
- ✔ Don't fill your kettle right up every time – just boil the amount of water you need.

4. Get a head

If you've got a shower that takes hot water straight from your boiler or hot water tank (rather than an electric shower) then you may be able to fit a water-efficient shower head and that could reduce your hot water usage whilst still maintaining the sensation of a powerful shower.

Some water companies are giving shower heads away for free, so maybe contact your water company to see if you could receive one. Through installing a water-efficient shower head, a family of four could save around **£75** a year on gas for water heating, as well as a further **£90** on water bills if they have a water meter .

¹ Comprises a saving of £13 by washing at 30 rather than a higher temperature; £35 by washing using a bowl rather than under a running tap; and £8 by only boiling what you need in the kettle.

Medium cost tips

5. New heating controls

Whatever the age of your boiler, the right controls will let you set your heating and hot water to come on and off when you need them, heat just the areas of your home you want, and decide how warm you want each area to be. Installing a room thermostat if you didn't have one before could save **£70** a year.

This also means you can then make savings by using your controls more effectively, for example, turning down your room thermostat by just one degree if it's too warm inside could save around **£65** a year.

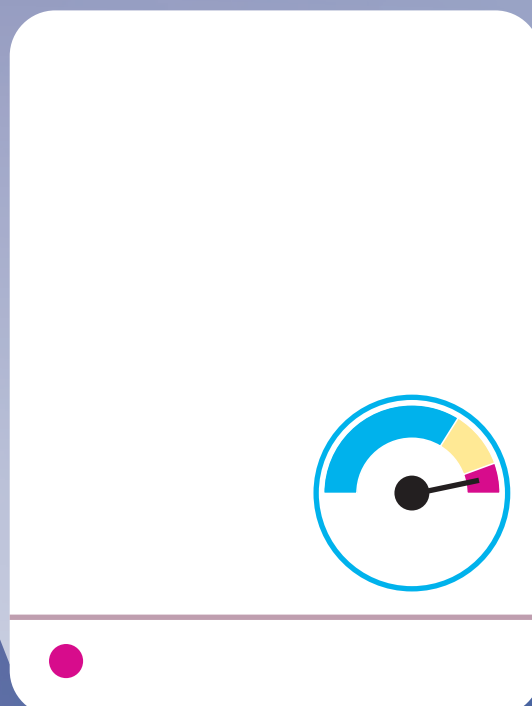
6. Loft insulation

We recommend having at least 270mm (ten inches) of loft insulation, so it might be worth checking whether you could make your home warmer by topping up levels of loft insulation. You could save up to £180 a year if your loft is uninsulated by installing 270mm of insulation. Even if you have some insulation by topping up from 100mm to 270mm could save around £25 a year.

7. Lighten your load

Have you changed all your light bulbs for low-energy ones? Even the halogen spots? You can now get LED spotlights that are bright enough to replace halogens, as well as regular energy saving bulbs ('compact fluorescent lamps' or CFLs) for pretty much everything else. They come in a variety of shapes, sizes and fittings.

If the average household replaced all their remaining old-fashioned bulbs with CFLs and all their halogens with LEDs it would cost around £110 and save around £60 a year.



Higher-cost tips

More information

For more information about current energy efficiency schemes and how to save energy in the home visit energysavingtrust.org.uk

All savings, unless otherwise stated are based upon a typical gas heated three bedroom semi-detached house. Savings assume average gas price of 4.64 p/kWh, electricity price of 15.32 p/kWh. Solar PV savings assume that 25 per cent of electricity generated is used on site and that the household is paid 14.9p/kWh for generation and 4.64 p/kWh for all electricity exported (deemed to be 50 per cent).

8. Cavity wall insulation

If a home was built after 1920, the chances are that its external walls are made of two layers of brick with a gap or cavity between them. Cavity wall insulation fills that gap, keeping the warmth in to save energy. The average installation cost for cavity wall insulation is between **£450** and **£500** and can save up to **£140** a year. The measure could pay for itself in under four years.

9. Greater savings and income for renewable technology

Whilst the Feed in tariff for electricity generating solar PV panels is going down, the average cost for electricity is going up. In addition the cost of panels is going down which means that now could be a great time to invest in solar PV. A typical 4kWp panel could generate and save you **£785** per year. Despite costs falling over the last year, they do vary between installers and system sizes (costs can be between **£5,500** and **£9,000**), so we recommend getting quotes from at least three MCS accredited installers.

It's also worth exploring renewable heating technologies, such as heat pumps, following the announcement of financial incentives through the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). Not only will households benefit from energy savings but they will also receive additional income for the energy produced!

10. Hard-to-treat walls

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) provides assistance for homes with hard-to-treat cavity and solid walls. You may be able to receive funding from an energy company to insulate your walls as part of the scheme's Carbon Saving Obligation.

