

HOME MAINTENANCE GUIDE

SAVING ENERGY



Your home may not be as efficient as you think! If you have an older house, it may have been built before the need to save energy was recognised. There are many things that you can do to make your home more efficient and not all of them as expensive as double glazing! In fact, some of them cost only a few pounds.

TEN POINT ENERGY PLAN



1. LOOK FOR CAVITIES...

Around 33% of all the heat lost from your home is through the walls, so insulating them can be the most cost-effective way to save energy in the home. If your house was built between the 1930's and the 1980's then you could save up to £100 in your annual heating bills!

2. BOILERS...IT MIGHT NEED FIXING...

Boilers usually break down in the winter so it's essential you check yours in the summer. If your boiler is over 15 years old it may need replacing with an energy efficient one. To compare new and old boilers visit www.boilers.org.uk

3. BE NICE TO YOUR FREEZER!

UK households use more than £1.2 billion worth of electricity on refrigeration every year. Don't leave the door open for longer than necessary, defrost regularly and check that the door seals are working properly.

4. LOOK FOR THE LOGO...

Look for the energy saving recommended logo when buying new electrical appliances. Replacing an old, energy inefficient fridge freezer with a new Energy Efficient Recommended one could save you up to £35 every year.

5. GIVE YOUR HOT WATER TANK A JACKET

An insulating jacket for hot water tanks costs a few pounds and pays for itself within months. Fit one that's 3" thick and you could save £10-£15 a year.

6. CLOSE YOUR CURTAINS AT DUSK.

As the days get chillier, closing your curtains at dusk will stop heat escaping through windows.

7. BUY AN ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHT BULB.

Trade up your ordinary light bulbs for energy saving ones. Priced from just £5, energy efficient light bulbs last 12 times longer and, for each bulb you fit, you can save up to £7 a year on your annual electricity bill.

8. DEFEATING DRAFTS

Stop drafts escaping by filling gaps under skirting boards with newspaper, beading or sealant. That's another £5-£10 off your bills for

9. SEE DOUBLE AND CUT HEAT LOSS BY 50%

Double glazing cuts heat loss through windows by 50% and could cut your heating bill by up to £40 a year!

10. TAKE A HOME ENERGY CHECK

Call your local Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on 0800 512 012 where you can obtain free, impartial advice on how to make your home more energy efficient and find out about the grants available in your area to implement energy efficient measures.