



Our tips to squeeze your Energy Bills

We're here to do our very best as a team of volunteer Repairers to fix your household stuff.

But many of you have told us how worried you are about the massive energy bills coming our way this winter. So, this note identifies a complete range of tips to try and help you squeeze those energy bills – so that you can afford to buy a few nice things in life...

Basic Tips that will cost you nothing to make real energy savings

1. Turn electrical devices off, if not in use. This of course means turning off lights in rooms with no one in them. Don't leave TVs plus audio and video devices in standby, switch them off at the socket.
2. Turn your Central Heating down by just one degree. Research shows that this could save more than £300/year. Be careful with heating unused rooms too.
3. Don't overfill your electric kettle, measure how much water you need each time.
4. Use a microwave oven, not a cooker, to just heat food up.
5. Check that all frigs and freezers are not set too cold. How cold do they need to be?
6. Can your washing machine run on a lower temperature, with the right washing powder?
7. Close all curtains at night and see if any doors or windows have draughts – draught excluder tape is very cheap. Cat-flaps?
8. Don't trust energy suppliers, they love to overcharge you. So, we recommend reading your gas and electric meters each month. Enter these real readings either over the phone, or on-line, so they bill you for actual, not projected usage. Always pay by Direct Debit if you can, it's cheaper.
9. If you have access to free or low-cost logs/wood and have a fireplace, burn them to heat those rooms.
10. Know which electric devices use the most power: anything with a pump, motor or heater in it. So, washing machines, dishwashers, tumble dryers, immersion heaters, kettles and frig/freezers, coffee machines and electric heaters.

Tips that will cost a small amount but make really big energy savings

1. Replace all frequently-used, old-style, electric light bulbs with modern LED type light bulbs. Honestly, this is a biggie! These are not cheap, but they use 90% less power!
2. Check that your hot water tank has modern insulation to reduce heat losses.
3. Check your loft and cavity walls are really well insulated. Did you know that there are Government grants for free insulation if your household income is less than £30,000/year?

Hampshire County Council have a special helpline about grants and energy saving:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/coldspots>

Tips needing expert advice that will cost you more up front but offer big payback

1. Consider installing a Solar renewable power installation on your roof. Although the Feed-in-Tariff for Solar has gone, the economics of Solar have changed. Modern PV Solar panels are now much cheaper and the price of electricity of course has skyrocketed. Why not get expert advice for a free quote?
Did you know that Government grants for completely free Solar systems are also available if your household income is less than £30,000/year?
2. Consider paying for an energy survey of your house. This will identify where your heat losses are and give you an Energy Performance Certificate.
Alternatively, hire a Thermal Imaging camera for a day and spread the cost by surveying friends houses as well.
3. Consider adding some “smart controls” to your central heating system. First of all, do ensure that your heating system is regularly serviced in order to keep it running at maximum efficiency and not break down when you need it most.
Did you know that you could add a smart thermostat (e.g. Nest, Hive, etc) that can optimise when your central heating system runs - and turn it on/off away from home with your smartphone?

If you have any feedback on our Tips, please contact me on derekprior377@gmail.com.

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