



Energy Efficiency Tips for Tenants

Energy Saving Tips:

- Use the central heating system you have. Gas is cheaper than electricity, so use your gas central heating system if you have it.
- Try not to use plug-in electric heaters as these use expensive on-peak daytime electricity, which will be costly.



How to use Gas Central Heating:

- Use your heating system's timer and programmer if you have them. These allow you to set your heating system and hot water to switch on and off automatically at times that you have pre-set.
- Set your heating to come on about half an hour before you want the house to be warm, and off, half an hour before, as the house should stay warm for about half an hour after the system switches off. It is unlikely that you will need your heating/hot water switched on all of the time.



Thermostatic Radiator Valves (TRVs):

- Thermostatic radiator valves do not control the boiler: they just reduce the flow of water through the radiator when the temperature goes above a certain setting. Set them to the level you want for the room: a lower setting uses less energy and so will save you money.



How to Heat Hot Water:

- In most homes, the hot water is supplied by the main central heating boiler, either directly if it is a combi boiler, or from a hot water cylinder. Often there will be an electric immersion heater in the cylinder as well.
- Use the boiler to heat the water, even in the summer. The immersion heater will be more expensive, and should only be used as an emergency back-up during the day as the peak rate electricity which it will use to heat the water will be expensive.
- Use the timer and programmer if you have them – these allow you to set your hot water to switch on and off automatically at times that you have pre-set. You will not need to heat water throughout the day – an hour in the morning and hour in the evening should provide enough for normal daily needs.





How to Use Storage Heaters:

- Electric storage heaters charge up automatically over night (normally between midnight and 7am during the winter months and between 1am and 8am during the summer, although this can vary) taking advantage of low-cost, off-peak electricity tariffs.
- Avoid using supplementary plug-in heaters. It is better to turn up the input on your storage heater to store more heat. Understanding how to operate your storage heaters as effectively as possible will help you to stay warm enough and not waste energy. For further guidance, see the fact sheet 'How to use a Storage Heater'.



How to Reduce Condensation and Mould:

- Heat and ventilate rooms adequately as moisture in the air will condense back into water on cold walls and surfaces. Excessive condensation can lead to damp which causes mould to grow.
- Keep lids on pans when cooking and the kitchen door closed. Ventilate the bathroom when used.
- Try and dry clothes outside where possible – not on radiators or airers. Drying clothes indoors produces 5 – 13 litres of moisture.



How to Save on your Energy Bills:

If you are responsible for paying the gas and electricity bill, you are entitled to switch at any time, and your landlord cannot unreasonably prevent you from doing so. Your landlord can only choose the energy supplier if they're directly responsible for paying the gas and/or electricity bills e.g. if your landlord pays the energy supplier directly and then reclaims the money from you or if your landlord includes the cost of energy within your accommodation charges.

- Ask your landlord to highlight any supplier tie-ins upfront, including any exit fees which you would have to pay if you wanted to switch suppliers.
- Find out how to shop around for a better energy deal and save up to £200: www.goenergysshopping.co.uk/en-gb/tenants.
Let your landlord know if you are intending to switch supplier.
- Turn down your room thermostat by one degree and save around £75 on your gas bills.
- Take meter readings when moving in and out of rented accommodation.
- If you are worried about paying your energy bills and keeping warm during the winter, call the Home Heat Helpline for advice: 0800 336699. It is free to call and is open 9am to 5.30pm, Monday to Fridays.