

# How to save money on power bills

Appliances, lighting and hot water use more energy – whether electricity or gas – than you think. A third of your household's energy use is spent on hot water, and another third goes on appliances and lighting together.

## Try these easy ways to save on power bills:

1. Wash clothes in **cold water** and wash when there are **full loads**.



2. Aim for **4 to 5 minute** showers.

OR **add a flow reducer** to your shower head. They look like washers and are available at hardware stores.



Just unscrew the shower hose and insert the flow restrictor – follow the instructions to make sure it is facing into the water flow.

3. If your hot water cylinder feels warm, or is old, **wrap your hot water cylinder** so that it doesn't lose heat.

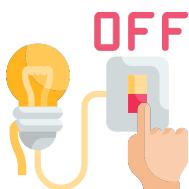
You can use an old duvet, or buy a cylinder wrap – they cost ~\$60 –\$80 from a hardware store.



Ask for the 'How to wrap a hot water cylinder' sheet if you don't have it.

4. Turn off TV and lights when you leave the room.

**Turn off appliances with standby lights** or clocks at the wall when you're not using them.



5. **Replace old incandescent lightbulbs with LED blubs.** Even though these may cost more, they:

- Last for much longer AND
- Use much less energy for the same amount of lighting.

If you can only afford a few, use them in rooms where the lights are on a lot of the time e.g. your living areas

If you have compact fluorescent lightbulbs, keep them until they stop working, then replace with LED bulbs. Try using them in areas that aren't used as much.

If you're renting, you can take your LED lightbulbs

with you when you leave – keep the landlord's bulbs and put them back when leaving.



**CFLs = 80% less electricity**

**LEDs = 85% less electricity**

than **incandescent bulbs**



6. Make sure the seals on your **fridges** and **freezers** are in good condition and aren't leaking, or mouldy. If your freezer has empty space, fill up old plastic water bottles with water and put them in the gaps. Turn off any fridges or freezers you don't need.

