

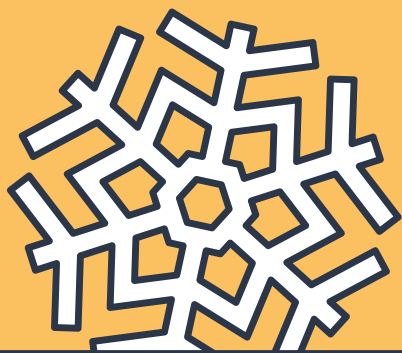
# Energy saving tips

Save costs by using less electricity.



## Keeping cool

Air conditioners use a lot of electricity, but there are ways to save energy while still keeping cool.



### Set the temperature

In summer, set your air-conditioner between 24C and 26C. Every degree below this adds 10 per cent to your cooling costs.

### Use fans where possible.

### Close off rooms

Only cool the rooms that are being used and keep doors and windows closed.

### Keep the heat out

Close curtains and blinds during the day to prevent heat from entering your home.

### Let cool air in

Open windows at night to let air circulate and cool the house.

## Use less hot water

You can reduce the cost of heating water in your home

### Shorter showers

Reduce shower times to four minutes or less.

### Water efficiency

Install a low-flow shower head and get water-efficient devices attached to internal taps.

### Check for faults

Regularly check your hot water system and taps for faults such as visible leaks around the storage unit.

### Use cold water where possible

You can use cold water to rinse dishes. When washing clothes, almost all stains and dirt can easily be removed in cold water.

### Wash full loads

Only use your washing machine when you have enough for a full load.



## What else do I need to know?

Even if you reduce your electricity usage to zero, you will still get a bill. Every household in Queensland pays a daily service charge. Unfortunately, being more energy efficient won't help reduce this cost as it is fixed.

## Check your fridge

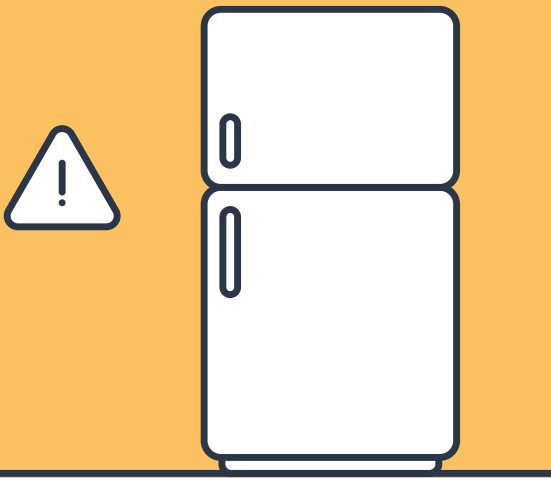
Use these tips to reduce the cost of running your fridge.

### Check the temperature setting

Set your fridge between 3C and 5C and your freezer between -15C and -18C.

### Upgrade your fridge

Some old fridges use up to three times more electricity than a newer fridge. You might be able access a No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) loan to purchase a more energy efficient model. Visit [nils.com.au](http://nils.com.au)



### Check the door seals

If your fridge door seals are worn out, your fridge may be leaking cold air and costing you more to run.

To check your fridge door seals, place a piece of paper in between the seal and the door before closing it. If the paper slides out easily, the door seals may need replacing.

## More quick tips

### Air drying

Clothes dryers are expensive. Use a washing line or rack instead. Try placing clothes on a rack indoors if it is raining.

### Washing cycles

Only use the dishwasher and washing machine when they are full and always use the shortest, most efficient cycle.

### Outdoor lighting

Consider solar lights or sensor lights rather than leaving outside lights on overnight.

### Turn it off

Turn off lights and appliances when you are not using them. Remember to turn appliances off at the main wall socket as standby power uses energy too.

### What else is there?

Consider what else might be using electricity. Do you have a pool pump or fish tank? How many TVs, game consoles, air conditioners or heaters do you have? These things all impact on your energy bill.

## Useful links

Community Door ..... [communitydoor.org.au/energy](http://communitydoor.org.au/energy)

Queensland Government ..... [qld.org.au](http://qld.org.au)

Energy Made Easy ..... [energymadeeasy.gov.au](http://energymadeeasy.gov.au)

Energy and Water Ombudsman ..... [ewoq.com.au](http://ewoq.com.au)

No Interest Loan Scheme ..... [nils.com.au](http://nils.com.au)

Energy Rating ..... [energyrating.gov.au](http://energyrating.gov.au)