

Top Ten Energy Tips

1. Tank and pipe insulation. - Hot water cylinder in a jacket is a quick job that will save you £70 a year. So is slipping the correct size foam tubes around exposed pipes between the cylinder and boiler.
2. Draughtproofing - To save £90 a year block your chimney with a removable wool Chimney Sheep (yes that's what it's called!). Seal rattly sash windows with Gapseal or equivalent, which you can reuse every winter Fit keyhole and letter flap covers.
3. Roof insulation - A quarter of heat is lost through the roof in an uninsulated home. Lay the recommended 27cm of insulation. If you had none to start with, the average £355 annual saving will repay you in little more than a year. Topping up from 12cm on your existing insulation will save £35 a year.
4. LED lighting - Switching all your bulbs for LEDs, at a typical cost of £160, can save £65 in energy bills every year. If left on for about four hours a day, a halogen bulb would cost £17.85 to run while an LED bulb would cost £4.25. If you swap ten bulbs and used them all for four hours a day, you could save £116 a year, even after the initial £20 cost of the new bulbs
5. Wall Insulation - Walls account for a hefty 25 per cent to 35 per cent of all heat lost from an uninsulated house. Houses on Vigo should be suitable as most have cavity walls. Once fitted you can expect annual savings of £450.
6. Reduce boiler pressure - If you have a condensing combi boiler, turn down its flow temperature. This is how hot it will heat the water before sending it to your radiators. By default, it's often set to 80C, but you can turn it down to 60C to make your boiler more efficient. This could save up to 8 per cent on gas bills. Octopus Energy said 100,000 customers tried this last winter and some saved nearly £100 a year.
7. Turn off the radiators - Turn off the radiators completely in any rooms that you do not use. In other rooms you could install thermostatic radiator valves. They restrict the water flow through a radiator if a room is already warm.
8. Only heat what you need – Using your kettle boil only as much as you need. A standard mug is about 300ml, which would require 0.03kWh of electricity to boil in a kettle, costing 1p. That's against 3p to boil 1 litre or 5p if you filled up a full 1.7 litre kettle.
9. Drying your washing - Drying your clothes outside or on a rack in a well-ventilated spot in your home is undoubtedly the cheapest method of getting them dry. Don't hang them over the radiator. It blocks it and makes your boiler work harder to heat your house Drying on radiators can also lead to damp problems in your home. If you're looking to save money, you should leave your tumble dryer well alone as many dryers can cost £1.50 per cycle. A cheaper thing to use, if you have one, is a heated clothing rack. Many can hold up to 15kg of washing, with a power consumption of 300w. If you ran it for two hours that would be 0.6kWh of consumption, which would cost 17p.
10. Is a bath that much worse than a shower? It depends on how long you stay in the shower. The average bath contains 30 litres of cold water and 60 litres of hot water while an average shower dispenses 9l of water a minute, 6l of which is hot (about 42C). The cost of heating a bath with gas would be 20p. A shower powered by your gas boiler would cost 2p per minute, and an electric shower would cost 7p per minute. The price difference means if you shower in less than ten minutes with a boiler-powered shower it will cost you less than running a bath. If you have an electric shower, you have two and a half minutes. Get scrubbing.