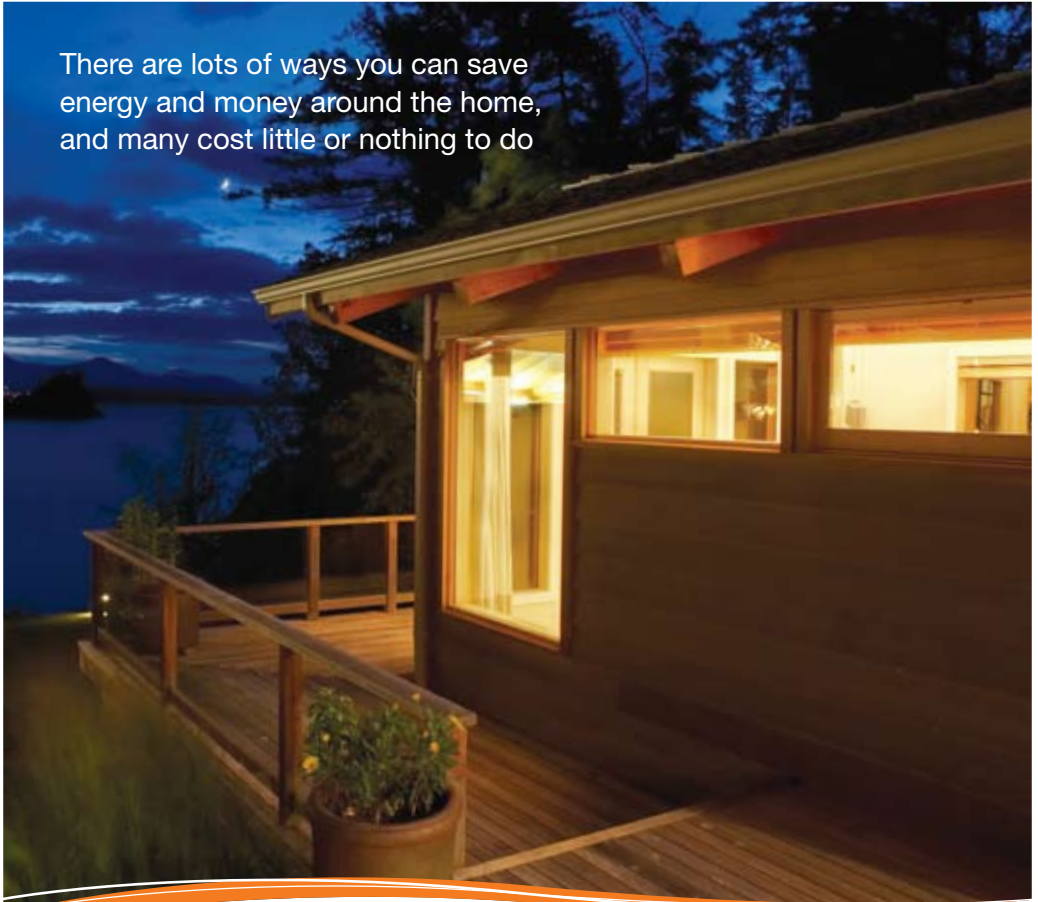


Energy-saving ideas for your home

There are lots of ways you can save energy and money around the home, and many cost little or nothing to do



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Now that you've taken advantage of the **ENERGYWISE™ Warm Up New Zealand: Heat Smart** funding programme you've got better levels of insulation around your home which will make your house warmer and easier to heat.

To make sure that it is as effective as possible over the coming years, there are a few things to be aware of.

Easy ways to take care of your insulation



- If your insulation becomes wet it is less effective and its durability can be affected, so make sure your roof is kept leak free.
- If you have work done in your ceiling, check that any insulation that has been moved during or after the work is replaced properly. There should be no visible gaps between the insulation and ceiling joists, or where sections of insulation join. Insulation should not be compressed, squashed or tucked in. Tip – take a photo of the completed installation so you have a record of what it looks like when it's lying properly.

Keep insulation away from downlights and heat sources



Downlight

- Downlights are very common in modern homes, but because they produce a lot of heat there must be a gap of at least 150mm between them and your insulation – the same applies for other heat sources like metal chimneys or flues and extractor fans. A 50mm gap must also be maintained from brick or concrete chimneys. If you have downlights, your insulation will have been fitted with these clearances. If you are thinking of putting in downlights in the future, make sure you note the clearances required, as mentioned above. But the more gaps you have to leave, the less effective your insulation is so think twice about putting in downlights – there are lots of really good alternatives available on the market. Check out www.rightlight.govt.nz



Non-downlight fitting

- If you've got existing standard downlights, you may want to switch them for fully enclosed 'closed-abutted' (CA-rated) fittings. Because these protect the heat source, the insulation can go right up to the fitting, but not over it. Better yet, replace them with non-downlight fittings that require no hole in your insulation at all.

Energy tips for the rest of your home

Get the most from your heating system

Heating accounts for almost 35% of a typical home's energy bill. Whatever type of heating system you use in your home, here are some ways to get the best energy savings.



- Shut doors and curtains to keep the heat in.
- Stop draughts sneaking in and out under doors with a draught-stopper.
- Don't set your heating system to a temperature higher than you need it. Aim for 18-21°C while you are using a space, and a minimum of 16°C in bedrooms overnight.
- Don't leave your heating system on all day if you don't need it – use a timer and set it to come on just before you get home.
- If you have a wood burner, use wood that has been dried for at least a year and is stored under cover.
- If you have a heat pump:
 - clean the filter (inside and out) regularly, as per the manufacturer's instructions.
 - try to avoid using it for cooling in summer – it is cheaper to use a ceiling fan and cheaper to open your windows.

Get into hot water

Hot water accounts for about 30% of the average home's energy bill, so it makes sense to make sure you're getting the most out of your system.



- Consider upgrading to a more efficient system – such as solar water heating, heat pump water heating, natural gas, solid fuel (wet back), or night rate water heating – to cut your costs and reduce your environmental impacts.
- Check out ENERGYWISE™ grants for solar and heat pump water heating. Visit www.energywise.govt.nz/funding-available
- Install an energy efficient shower head to get a good shower without wasting water. This could save up to \$500 a year if you use a lot of hot water.
- Shower rather than bath – and take shorter showers.
- Check that your hot water temperature is no hotter than necessary – it should be 55°C at the tap.
- Wrap the heat in. If your hot water cylinder and pipes feel warm to the touch, they are losing heat. Insulate them by wrapping – you can get cylinder wraps from hardware stores.

Switch on to efficient appliances

Choosing efficient appliances and using them wisely will save you money in the long run.



- Buy appliances that suit your needs. Appliances that are too big or too small generally won't be as efficient and may cost more to buy.
- Look for energy rating labels, which help you compare models by showing you how efficient an appliance is. The more stars on the label, the more energy efficient the appliance is compared to similar sized models.
- Buy appliances with the ENERGY STAR® mark, which appears on only the most efficient appliances in a category.
- Turn appliances off instead of leaving them on standby. Throughout the year, it could save up to \$75.
- Switch off your heated towel rail during the day or have an electrician fit a timer.
- Use cold water washes for laundry – a warm wash uses as much energy as drying the clothes in the dryer.
- Line-dry clothes as much as possible, or hang them on a rack under the verandah or in the garage.
- Switch off the spare fridge – or if you really aren't using it, trade it in or recycle it.





Bright ideas for lighting

There's an efficient lighting option for just about every use in your home nowadays. Choosing the right lights and using them smartly can give you modern, stylish lighting that uses less electricity, lasts longer and is well suited to your needs.



- Choose the right light for the purpose. Different tasks need different lights – so buy lights that do the right job for you.
- Use task lighting where you need to see what you're doing. It's good for places such as food preparation areas, which saves you having to put bright lighting throughout the entire room.
- Check the light output (written in lumens) of new bulbs when buying. This will ensure that you get the same level of illumination as your old bulb.
- For each ordinary bulb you replace with an energy efficient option, you'll save around \$110 over the lifetime of the bulb (8000 hours).
- Only turn on the lights as you need them. Switch them off when you leave the room or don't need them anymore.
- Check out **www.rightlight.govt.nz** for all the information you need about efficient lighting.

Look into double-glazing

It's worth considering double-glazing any time that you are renovating.

Replacing old windows with double-glazed units that have a thermal break in the frames can significantly reduce the heat loss from your house – this creates an insulating layer of air between two panes of glass. Double-glazing also reduces condensation and can reduce the amount of outside noise coming into the house.

If you need to prioritise, install double-glazing to the main heated areas of the house and areas where there are large windows and use good curtains elsewhere.

Visit the ENERGYWISE™ website

For lots more information and ideas on smart use of energy in your home, visit **www.energywise.govt.nz**

To find out about funding for clean heating systems and efficient water heating, visit **www.energywise.govt.nz/funding-available**



www.energywise.govt.nz

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