

Make the most of your electricity

There are lots of simple things you can do to shave hundreds of dollars off your power bill over the year, so you can use that power where it counts most—like to keep your home warm.

Your power company is here to help with your power bill

Talk to your power company if you're struggling to pay your bill. They can recommend a payment schedule suited to your circumstances such as smooth-pay, which means bills don't get more expensive in winter.



Check you're on the best plan. Chat to your power company about if a different plan would be better suited to you, or compare your options using powerswitch.org.nz.



Powerswitch might not be appropriate in all cases, as some might not be able to switch power company—like if they're in debt, or if their landlord controls their power account.

Get budgeting support. Budgeting services like FinCap's MoneyTalks can help you get on top of debt and manage your budget with free financial advice, and can connect you with other community services. Your power company can help with this.



See how WINZ can help. Make sure you're getting the assistance you're entitled to from WINZ—they can help with power bills in some circumstances. Your power company can help with this.



Use appliances efficiently

Switch off your appliances at the wall when you're not using them to save \$100 a year.



Dry your clothes outside. Each dryer load costs \$1. But use the dryer if you can't hang them on the line—don't dry your clothes inside because it releases dampness that could make you sick.



Boil only as much water as you need in the kettle. You can save \$30 a year by halving how much you boil.



Use LED lightbulbs. A house using LED bulbs can save \$100 or more every year compared to traditional bulbs.



Keep your home warm

Set your heaters to between 18-22°C, the best range for keeping warm and healthy, and being energy efficient.



Use a heat pump. They're 3 times more efficient than electric heaters (electric heaters work well for smaller rooms like bedrooms).



Only heat rooms you're using. Close doors between rooms and close the curtains when the sun is setting to keep the heat in.



Block gaps around doors and windows. Make DIY draught stoppers by stuffing an old rugby sock with newspaper, or by rolling up a towel.



Save on hot water

Take shorter showers. A family of four can save \$450 a year cutting down their daily showers by 5 minutes.



Using cold water when washing clothes. Doing cold water washes can save \$80 a year. Only use hot water for very stubborn stains.



Check your shower flow. If it fills a 10 litre bucket in under a minute it's wasting hot water—\$80 per year for each litre over 10. Install a flow restrictor to conserve water.



Fix dripping taps. A dripping hot tap can cost you up to \$100 a year.

