

10 cost saving tips to keep your home in good energy efficiency order this Winter.



**83% of your
home energy
use is heating
and hot water**

1. Heating system - get your heating system and gas appliances serviced by a Gas Safe registered engineer. Include a chemical inhibitor— to protect against sludge and limescale.

2. Hot Water - check your cylinder insulation, the pipes running to and from it and set the hot water thermostat to no more than 60°C - this will still provide hot water and is safer for children.

3. Radiators - remove trapped air, use thermostatic valves - keep them low or turned off in rooms that aren't used. And don't cover them.

4. Controls - install intelligent heating controls – this could not only save you money, it will provide flexibility and efficiency. Programme your heating to suit your lifestyle and the weather.

5. Check your pipes - check all pipework to ensure that there are no leaks, fix any drips and lag pipes to avoid bursts.

6. Heat only what you use - only heat the room you use the most, you don't have to use the central heating to heat the entire house, a gas fire can also be used inexpensively as a single source of heat.

7. Update your heating system - inefficient boilers cost you more and emit higher levels of carbon dioxide than modern condensing boilers.

8. Keep the heat in – When heating your home, warm air pulls cold air from outside, in, so block draughts and draw your curtains – properly fitted curtains act as a great insulation reducing heat loss through glass.

9. Know your system - knowing how to use your heating system and controls properly is the key to delivering savings.

10. If you don't know, ask - your local Gas Safe registered engineer will be able to advise you on all of the tips above.

You may also be able to get additional help with your bills



Winter Fuel Payment - if you receive a state pension and were born on or before 5 July 1952, you will receive the Winter Fuel Payment which is worth between £100 and £300.

Cold Weather Payment - in periods of extreme weather, people claiming certain benefits will receive £25 a day to help with the costs of heating their home.

Warm Home Discount - this one-off payment gives eligible older and low-income consumers £140 off their energy bill.

For full details and eligibility, visit www.gov.uk/warmthiswinter or contact your local citizens advice bureau.

Priority Services Register for older and disabled people

If you sign up to your supplier's Priority Services Register (PSR), you can get extra help and support with your energy supply. You can sign up if you're:

- a pensioner
- disabled or chronically sick
- have a hearing or visual impairment

If you're on the PSR, you could get:

- free advice on being more energy-efficient
- protection from cold callers with a password protection scheme
- your meter moved free of charge if it's hard for you to use or read the meter
- a free quarterly meter reading if you can't read your meter
- bills sent to a relative, carer or friend to help you check them
- your bills and meter readings in braille, large print, audio tape, textphone or typetalk if you're visually impaired
- advance notice if your supply is going to be interrupted
- priority reconnection if your supply is interrupted
- alternative facilities for cooking and heating if your supply is interrupted
- extra help to use your meter or appliances
- Free annual gas safety checks

To be eligible for a free annual gas safety check, you must own your home and get a means tested benefit such as Pension Credit or Income Support. Also, one of the following must apply:

- you live alone
- you live with other adults who are aged over 60, disabled and or chronically sick
- you live with at least one other child under five

How to sign up : Contact your supplier to see if you're eligible to sign up to the PSR. If you have different suppliers for gas and electricity, you'll need to call them both.

You'll need to register again if you change your energy supplier.