



Saving Energy Tips for Tenants

We all know that it is important to use less energy and reduce our carbon footprint. As a tenant it can be easy to assume that acting to reduce your energy usage is the responsibility of your landlord, however, there are many easy and cost-effective steps that tenants can take, without altering the fabric of the building.

Renting can be expensive, we have put together our 10 top energy saving tips, which can easily be implemented by tenants, helping to reduce energy use, keep utility costs down and avoid rent increase in some case.

1. Switch appliances off

From televisions to games consoles and phone chargers, many of us are guilty of leaving appliances on standby when we are not using them. Appliances still use electricity when on standby and, although using less than they would when turned on, it can add up over time.



2. Choose a cooler wash

Heating up water accounts for almost 90% of the energy used by your washing machine. Choosing a cooler 30 degrees wash means that you can significantly reduce the amount of energy used for each cycle.

3. Wait before switching on the dishwasher

If you only have a few dishes, either wash them in the sink or wait until you have more before using the dishwasher to avoid wasting energy. Also, don't overload the dishwasher as this will make it harder to fully clean your plates, glasses and cutlery. At the same time, scrape dishes before they go in, to limit blockages.

4. Turn your heating down

We all know that it can get chilly in the UK, even during summer months, however, turning down your thermostat when you are leaving the house or going on holidays can save a lot of money. Try turning the heating down and wearing layers instead. We've noticed a lot of tenant are not aware that the radiator is equipped with thermostatic valve. If you are too hot, don't cool off the room by opening the window, simply turn off your radiator.

5. Defrost your freezer

Not only will defrosting your freezer free up oodles of space, but it will also make it run more efficiently and prolong its lifespan. Now that is eco-friendly! Freezers are a major drain on your eco-conscience as not only do they use power to cool inside, they also kick out a lot of heat outside. Also re-packing your freezer more efficiently and filling up any air gaps can make it run better and use less power. Also check

the temperature of your fridge and freezer, the optimum temperature for efficient operation is not necessarily the lowest temperature.

6. Use energy saving light bulbs

Gone are the days that using energy saving lightbulbs means stumbling around in the dark. LED energy saving bulbs give off the same light as traditional bulbs but can help to slash your energy bills. LED bulbs can have a life span of up to 20 years, so you shouldn't have to change them often, especially if you only light rooms that are in use. Keeping bulbs and fixtures clean also helps to generate more light.



7. Keep your oven door clean

This may seem insignificant but keeping the oven door clean means that you can check on your food cooking without opening the door, saving on lost heat. Similarly, cooking with lids on saucepans means that less energy will be used to cook the same amount of food.

8. Open curtains/blinds during the day

Even in the colder winter months, leaving curtains open during the day can help to keep the room warm by allowing sunlight in.

9. Remove lint from the tumble dryer

If you use a tumble dryer you should clean the lint filter regularly. A dryer works by moving heated air through wet clothes, if the filter is blocked it will not be able to heat the air or move it through the clothes as efficiently, taking longer to dry and using more energy.

10. Conserve water

Instead of running the tap when peeling potatoes, why not fill a large bowl and use to peel? When brushing your teeth, why not turn the tap off whilst you brush? Showers use less water than baths. In fact, a five-minute shower uses around 45 litres less water than a standard bath. Saving water is great for the environment, and for your energy bills when it comes to hot water!

