

# ENERGY SAVING TIPS

## Heating, ventilation, hot water



### The largest energy user in the household: the heating!

Around 45 per cent of the energy in private households (including the car) is used for heating with a further 10 per cent for heating drinking water. A few simple tricks can help you save a lot of money on heating. Regularly servicing and testing by a professional ensures efficient operation of the system.

### Pay attention to the room temperature

Every degree (C) cooler reduces the energy consumption and therefore heating costs by around 6 per cent. However, the room temperature should not be allowed to fall below 15 degrees: if some rooms become too cold, this can lead to condensation and mould.

### Invest in thermostatic valves

It is worth buying programmable thermostatic valves. They regulate the temperature flexibly and automatically as desired. For example, the temperature can be automatically lower during the day, when everyone is out at work, then higher in the evening when everyone returns and finally lower at night when everyone is asleep.

### Use fan heaters and electric radiators sparingly

Plug-in, electric direct heating is being recommended more and more as an alternative to central heating. This is not advisable: continuous operation of these heat sources will be very expensive! Also, the units are not designed to be run for long periods and should therefore not be left alone. Using too many such devices simultaneously might also overload the power line to the home or even the local power grid.

### Keep doors closed

Doors to unheated rooms, like the bedroom or unused guest room, should stay closed. Otherwise warmer air, which is also considerably more humid, will be drawn from the heated living spaces into the cold rooms. When the warm air cools, this leads to a risk of mould.

### Save energy with roller shutters

Do you have shutters on your windows? If so, close them in winter as soon as it gets dark. Less heat will escape because an insulating layer of air is formed between the shutter and the window.

### Proper ventilation is a must

Insufficient ventilation can lead to moisture damage and mould formation. Windows should not be left ajar all the time, however. Briefly opening windows and allowing fresh air to blow through is the most effective method. Make sure to turn off the radiator valves when ventilating.

### Showers not baths

Having showers instead of baths can help save up to 70 per cent of energy and water. Every degree (C) less in the shower temperature saves around 3 per cent. 5 instead of 6 minutes of showering saves around 15 per cent of energy. A further tip is to turn off the water while brushing teeth as well as when applying soap in the shower.

### Specialists can help

If your heating system is starting to get old, it is advisable to get it checked by a professional to see if it is still operating efficiently. For example, hydraulic balancing of radiators ensures that all radiators are supplied equally with heating again and the system works properly.



More tips on how to save energy in the home and garden can be found at:  
[www.ganz-einfach-energiesparen.de](http://www.ganz-einfach-energiesparen.de)