

ELECTRICITY SAVING TIPS

What can I do?



Find power hungry appliances

We often don't know how much electricity each appliance actually uses. So why not get a power meter and find out? In fact, meters can be borrowed free of charge from your energy supplier or from the consumer advice centre.

Don't preheat

Preheating the oven is only needed for a few dishes. Also, remove all baking trays, grill pans, shelves etc. before baking or roasting. Using the fan function instead of upper/lower heat, closing the oven door and using all the space available also saves energy.

Note: Take advantage of residual heat. Your roast will still crisp up nicely if you turn off the oven around ten minutes before the end of the cooking time.

Choosing the right pot

Make sure the ring is the right size for the pot you're using, that the base is flat and that the lid closes well. Lids at an angle let so much heat out that up to three times as much electricity is used. For dishes that take a long time to cook, using a pressure cooker can reduce electricity consumption by up to 30 per cent.

Note: Don't use the oven or hob for general heating.

Let food cool down

Place refrigerators and freezers in cool locations. Defrost the freezer when an ice layer has formed. Allow food to cool thoroughly before putting it in the fridge. Opening the fridge door more often and for longer than necessary wastes energy. Good organisation maximises the use of space and minimises the time spent looking for things.

Note: Keep the cooling fins on the back of the appliances free of dust and make sure air can circulate well.

Wash at cooler temperatures

A washing machine uses most of its energy for heating water. So reducing laundry temperatures helps reduce electricity bills. Using the eco-program can have the greatest impact: The new "Eco 40-60" setting allows cottons suitable for 40 or 60 degree cycles, that are not too dirty, to be washed together.

Also: Pre-treat stains and do without a pre-wash.

Fully load the dishwasher

Using a dishwasher generally saves energy, time and water compared to washing up by hand. Ideally, the dishwasher should be as full as possible when it is run. There is no need to pre-rinse under the tap.

Switchable multi-sockets

Televisions, stereos, PCs etc. are among the biggest users of electricity in the home. When not in use, it is best if they are unplugged. This can save households up to €100 per year, especially with older units.

Modern lighting

LED bulbs need up to 80 per cent less energy than halogen bulbs and around 50 per cent less than energy-saving bulbs. They also last much longer.

Even then: Don't forget to switch off the light when leaving a room to maximise savings. For outside lights, shared corridors, stairwells or cellars, it is worth installing motion sensors.

Pay attention to energy labels

Take note of the energy label when buying new appliances. Since 2021, all energy labels have been gradually adopting the A to G efficiency classes (A=most efficient, G=least efficient). For a brief explanation of all energy labels go to: www.energielabel-kompass.de (only in German).



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