



Be Energy Wise

Embrace energy efficiency

When investing in large household appliances and fixtures, use the Government's Energy and Water Ratings (stars) to guide you to the most efficient products to save money, water and energy.

The cost of energy and water is constantly on the rise as natural resources are reducing. Large household appliances (including fridges, TV's, washing machines and dishwashers) and toilets, taps and showers consume the bulk of our household energy and water usage.

It is mandatory for most electrical and water products sold in Australia to have an approved energy rating label which allows the consumer to determine the efficiency rating of that product. The more stars indicates that the product is more energy efficient - this equates to being more environmentally friendly and to saving money.

Flat screen TVs are getting bigger and bigger, meaning TVs are one of the most energy consuming appliances in the home. Each additional star on the energy rating label is 20% more energy efficient than the previous star.

For further information, visit the [Energy Rating website](#).

Switch off household electrical items

You can be more energy efficient by simply switching appliances off at the wall when you are not using them. Many appliances including TVs may still be consuming energy even when they are not being

used. While this can be convenient, standby mode can make up to 10 per cent of your household energy use.

To get you started, your household could take part in a global event, "Earth Hour", where each year many people from around the world participate in switching off power for one hour on a particular day.

More tips to save energy

Apart from switching off appliances at the wall there are other ways you can save energy around your home. These include:

1. Insulate ceilings, floors and walls.
2. Replace ordinary incandescent globes with fluorescent globes or LED lights. These lights are much more energy efficient than standard globes. By saving energy every time you turn lights on you are also saving money on your power bill.
3. Wash your clothes in cold water.
4. Dry clothes on the line rather than in a dryer.
5. Install glazed windows.
6. Block the summer heat. Use curtains or plant trees to shade your house and prevent heat from entering.
7. Circulate air. Install ceiling fans for cooling in summer and circulate rising heat in winter. This will save the need to use the air-conditioner.
8. Rug up in winter, wear less in summer.
9. Lower your hot water temperature.

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