

10 money-saving home tips for winter



We understand winter can be a pricey time of year. But there are a few simple things you can do around the home to help reduce those costs.



1. Insulate with tinfoil

Feeling the chill? Putting aluminium foil behind your radiators could help keep heat in your home. Although this may seem a little far-fetched, the idea is simple - using reflective foil behind your radiator will bounce heat back into the room, rather than letting it out through the walls. Bear in mind this is only effective behind radiators on external walls, not internal.

The benefits are, of course, a warmer, more comfortable home and less energy wastage. You can buy specialist foil from hardware shops or online in rolls or sheets, this can then be cut to size.

2. Take tech off stand-by

It's an age-old question, does switching off appliances and devices in our homes when they're not in use, save on your household energy use? The short answer is, yes.

We'd advise everyday appliances like fridges and freezers remain switched on at all times. However, items like TV's, smart speakers and game consoles can use up energy even when turned off, unless unplugged at the wall (a type of energy use known as a 'Phantom Load.')



3. Draught proof your home

It costs money to heat your home so it's important to do as much as you can to keep the warmth in. Draught-proof windows and doors with self-adhesive strips or caulk. Consider double-glazing if it's not already in place, or replacing an old door with a new one, depending on how bad the problem is.

4. Take control of your heating

Whilst it may sound basic, turning down your main thermostat by just one degree could save you money on your energy bills. Most families set their thermostat between 18°C and 21°C, and whilst we all have that preferred temperature, you're likely not to notice a 1-degree difference. So why not give it a try?



5. Prevent frozen or burst pipes

During winter, the pipes in your home may be at risk of freezing and bursting. Not only can this leave you with a cold house and no water in the worst of weather, but there's also the not-so-fun clean-up operation and costly repairs. One of the most important maintenance tips for winter is to protect against this – mainly through good home insulation, warm air circulation and maintaining a low heat setting.



6. Don't let the rain dampen things

It's not just the cold you have to worry about but the UK wet weather we're oh-so familiar with. Clear gutters and drains - built-up water can seep through internal walls causing damp problems, and if it freezes, the added weight could break your guttering completely. Also, check and fix your roof for loose or missing tiles to prevent water from leaking through and freezing in cracks, causing more damage.



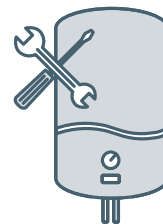
7. Don't overfill the kettle

Time to warm up with a cuppa? Whether tea time is at 11am or 3pm, stop filling the kettle up to the brim, use your mug to measure and boil just what you need.



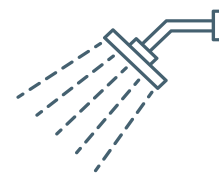
8. Get your boiler serviced

We all know small problems can lead to big ones if unattended. Having your boiler serviced professionally ahead of winter should nip any small issues in the bud, so you won't end up paying for expensive emergency call-outs. Also, ask your engineer to check if your boiler's working efficiently - this will save you money in the long run.



9. Spend less time in the shower

Every minute you shave off your time in the shower could save on your energy usage. Set a timer on your phone to keep you in check.



Alternatively, switching to a low flow showerhead can not only help the planet, but will help you use less energy whilst showering.

10. Make sure you're protected

Last but certainly not least – make sure you're protected. Home emergencies have a nasty habit of cropping up when you least expect it so make sure your home insurance includes home emergency cover, so you can be safe in the knowledge you'll be covered should the unexpected happen.

