

Top Tips

Not all energy improvements cost money! Remember to turn off lights and electrical items when you're not using them, avoid using tumble driers, and be conscious of how you use appliances such as kettles and ovens.

Simple things like closing your curtains at dusk to keep the heat in, and making sure that heaters are not blocked by furniture, can help reduce your bills.

New Home Checklist

1. Read your meters
2. Choose your energy supplier
3. Set your heating and hot water
4. Make your home more energy efficient
5. Follow our top tips for saving energy

Useful Numbers

Note down useful numbers here:

For more impartial advice and information about energy saving call **0800 804 8601** or visit **www.environmentcentre.com**



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Energy Guide for Your New Home

Energy bills often end up at the bottom of the 'things to do' list when you move home, but putting this off could cost money. **Use this guide to find out how to save energy** - and avoid unpleasant surprises when your first bills arrive.

Your new energy supplier

1. **Read your meters** as soon as you move in and, if possible, take a photograph. You'll need to give the readings to your supplier.
2. **Find out who supplies your gas and electricity.** Ask your landlord, letting agent or the previous tenant. Or, call **0870 608 1524** for gas and **0345 026 2554** (Option 4) for electricity suppliers.
3. **If you have pre-payment meters** contact your supplier straight away so they can re-set your meter – you don't want to end up paying for someone else's debt!
4. **Check your tariff.** Energy companies don't usually put new customers on their cheapest tariff. Ask your supplier about cheaper deals or discounts.
5. **Visit a price comparison website** to find better energy deals. You may need your landlord's permission to switch supplier, so check your tenancy agreement first.

Your new heating system

1. Find the **controls for your heating system**, and check that you know how to use them. Ask your landlord to show you, or look for a manual (you can often find these online).
2. **Set a heating programme.** Every home takes a different length of time to warm up when the heating is switched on and to cool down after the heating is switched off. Work out these 'warm up' and 'cool down' times so that you can plan your heating programme.



The ideal temperature for your room thermostat is 18°C, and for your hot water thermostat is 60°C. These temperatures are best for your health and your wallet.

3. If you have **storage heaters** make sure you understand the 'input', 'output' and 'boost' controls. Experiment with the settings until you work out what's best for your home.
4. If you have a **hot water tank** make sure it's well wrapped up. Most households only need the hot water on for 1-2 hours a day: experiment to find the minimum time you need.

If there is an immersion heater, make sure it is **not left on all the time**.

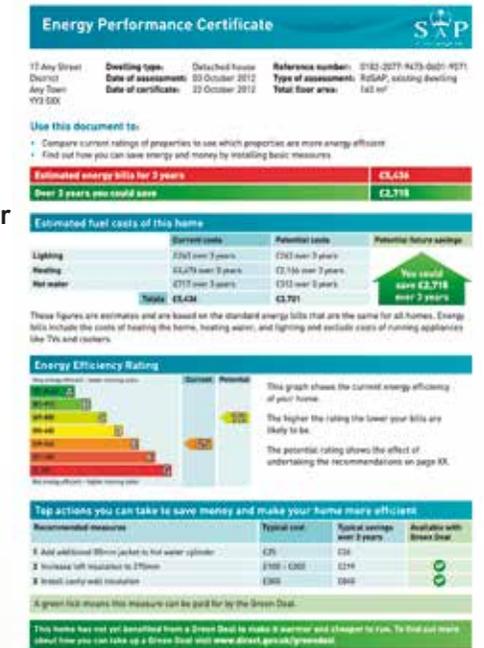


Can your new home be improved?

You may have already seen the **Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)** for your new home, but if not you can find a copy at www.epcregister.com. Your EPC shows how energy efficient the home is, and suggests how it could be improved, for example with loft or wall insulation.

If you think the property could be improved, talk to your landlord and contact us to find out if any financial help is available.

Any cold draughts? Homes are harder to keep warm if cold air is getting in around doors, letterboxes and windows. See our DIY guides to find out how you can draught proof your home. Always check with your landlord before doing any work on your home.



Check that all the lights in your home are fitted with **low energy bulbs**. Remember, for every £1 you spend running a traditional bulb, you would only spend 20 pence running a low energy bulb - even less if you choose LED bulbs. These bulbs may cost more to buy, but they cost less to run and last for much longer.