

PREPARE FOR WINTER: KEEP YOUR POWER BILL LOW

Use less hot water

Using less hot water reduces your energy consumption and **costs you less money**.

- Take a shower instead of a bath and reduce your shower time (a timer and shower flow restrictors can help!).
- **Use cold water** for your laundry, and run the dishwasher and washing machine with full loads
- Fix any leaks around your home.
- Set the thermostat of your hot water cylinder to 55-60°C (you may need a plumber to do that).
- Wrap your hot water cylinder with a cylinder wrap to reduce heat loss (**lost heat = lost money**)

Appliances and lighting

- Choose energy-efficient appliances and **turn them off** when not in use (not on standby).
- Do not leave devices plugged in when they are fully charged.
- Use timers and thermostat to reduce your power consumption (e.g. heaters, freezers, lights, etc).
- Identify the appliances that are using a lot of power and **replace them**, if possible, with more efficient models, or **minimise their use**.
- Switch your lightbulbs to LEDs to reduce your power bill for lighting by up to 83 per cent.

Fridge/freezers

- Make sure that fridge and freezer doors are **sealing properly**.
- Leave 3-5cm between the back of your fridge or freezer and the wall, to enable good ventilation. **Poor air circulation can double the electricity use of a fridge or freezer**.
- Manage the temperatures of your refrigeration appliances (-18°C for your freezer and 2-4°C for your fridge).

Electricity plan

- The website powerswitch.org.nz helps you find the best electricity and gas plan. Keeping track of your bills will help you understand where you can make savings.

Useful links for grants and more information

Homefit Online check: <https://tools.genless.govt.nz/individuals/homefit-online-check/>