

Electricity Saving Tips

There are several compelling reasons to use electricity wisely. Not only will you save money on your electricity bill, you will assist in taking pressure off the power grid, which, as we know, is under severe pressure in South Africa.

What's more, every kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity saved means one less kilogram of carbon dioxide generated by a power station.

There are so many ways one can reduce their electricity consumption and every little bit of saving helps.

LIGHTS

- Switch off lights when they are not needed
- Use fewer bulbs with higher wattages. For instance, one 100 watt bulb produces the same light as two 60 watt bulbs
- Dimming switches reduce electricity consumption
- Use compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) instead of ordinary bulbs
- Use low-energy lamps for exterior lighting
- Replace regular bulbs with energy-saving ones that use six times less electricity
- Turn off lights if you are not in a room

HEATING

- Use the correct heaters. Infrared electricity heaters are the most energy efficient heaters available while oil heaters are the safest. But ... if you have a fireplace, use it, as fireplaces retain heat and warm spaces effectively, keeping your cost down and the warmth up
- Insulate the ceiling and seal air gaps in the home
- Ensure that heaters have thermostats
- Use electric blankets but turn them off when in bed

DISHWASHER

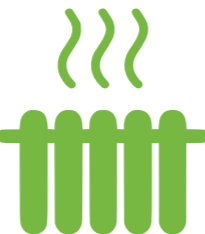
- Fill the dishwasher completely before operating it.
- Turn off the dishwasher before the drying cycle so that you can dry the dishes with a dry cloth
- Connect the dishwasher to the cold water supply
- Clean filters
- When buying a dishwasher, look for energy saving features like a short wash cycle
- Install your dishwasher away from your refrigerator. The dishwasher's heat and moisture make the refrigerator work harder

WATER CONSUMPTION

- Rather take a shower. You'll save up to 80% in water and use five times less electricity than heating a bath of water
- Install an energy and water efficient showerhead. These use up to 40% less hot water and will save you money on your electricity bill

GEYSERS

- Show your geyser some love and fit it with a geyser blanket. It prevents heat loss
- Set your electrical geyser's thermostat at 55 ° C to 60 ° C. To save energy make sure the geyser and all hot water steel pipes in the roof are well insulated with fibreglass or newspaper
- Solar heating units could reduce the geyser's electricity consumption by 40% to 50%. This would result in a savings of about 200kWh to 250kWh of electricity per month, depending on the number of geysers and the size of the family



SOLAR

- Invest in a solar water heater. It uses the sun to heat up your water saving you 25% or more on your electricity bill
- Install a solar photovoltaic system. These generate electricity from the sun's energy



GENERAL

- Do not buy larger or more powerful appliances than are actually required
- Do not buy an electric appliance when a hand-operated one will suffice
- Use the correct appliance for the job e.g. do not make toast on the stove or in the oven
- Do not fill a kettle if only a small quantity of boiling water is required. It is sufficient to put in only enough water to cover the element
- It is more economical to boil water in a kettle rather than in a pot on the stove
- Operate swimming pool filter pumps for minimum periods
- Paint the walls of your home in a light colour. Dark colours tend to absorb light, requiring you to use more energy from light bulbs to achieve the same effect
- Switch off appliances at the wall and pull out chargers. Leaving them in standby mode could cost you up to 6% more electricity
- Move to using gas for cooking. Gas is more efficient than electricity and you have the added bonus of still being able to cook during power outages
- Standby power can account for 10% of an average household's annual electricity use. Unplug unused electronics and save \$50 a year

STOVES

- Use pressure cookers when preparing food that takes a long time to cook
- Match pots and pans to stove plates. Small pots on large plates waste electricity
- Do not use pots with distorted bottoms
- Switch off the plates or oven before food is fully cooked. This allows you to finish your cooking without using energy
- Keep oven doors closed until food is cooked
- Do not preheat the oven. It isn't necessary to preheat the oven except for food requiring high temperatures and slow cooking times
- Make use of the oven's leftover heat. Your oven retains heat for 15 to 30 minutes after it is turned off. Use that free heat to warm up desserts, rolls or freshen crackers and cookies
- Glass and ceramic pans retain heat better than metal pans
- Use the self-cleaning feature only when it's necessary. Start the self-cleaning cycle right after cooking while the oven is still hot. Less energy will be required to reach cleaning temperature
- When you defrost food, leave it in the fridge overnight. You'll use less electricity than defrosting food in the microwave
- Use a microwave to cook small to medium quantities of food. For larger portions of meat, it's better to use a conventional oven or pressure cooker

REFRIGERATOR

- Don't open the fridge door unnecessarily and make sure the seal is intact
- Turn off an empty refrigerator when going on holiday
- Let hot foods cool down before placing them in the refrigerator
- Defrost fridges and freezers regularly. A build-up of ice reduces operating efficiency and increases running costs



TUMBLE DRYERS

- Tumble dryers that operate with an electronic humidity control are the most efficient as they automatically shut off the drying cycle when clothes are dry
- Use correct temperature settings to minimise the amount of electricity used
- Remove excess water before putting clothes into the tumble dryer
- On sunny days, take the opportunity to dry your clothes outside
- Popping a dry towel in the tumble dryer with wet clothes reduces the length of time needed to dry washing



AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES

- A front loading washing machine uses less water and costs less to operate
- Use the warm water setting to cut down on electricity needed to heat the water
- Make sure you have a full load before washing
- Select the shortest possible washing programme
- Cold water detergents reduce electricity consumption

