

# Tips to reduce your Heating Bill

- Lowering the temperature that the heating is set to on a condensing boiler to 60°C or below can cut a bill by around 8% - because when it is set above this temperature the boiler does not properly condense. For a step by step guide see **[Moneysavingboilerchallenge.com](http://Moneysavingboilerchallenge.com)**
- Some combi boilers have a hot water preheat function which fires up the boiler every so often just in case you might need some hot water. That wastes money. Find it and turn it off.
- If you have a hot water tank then insulate pipework to it and reduce the hot water temperature to the lowest workable setting.
- If you have a combi boiler and you need to mix cold water with your hot then save money by turning the temperature down.
- If you have a hot water cylinder then make sure that the temperature is not set to over 60°C. You should not set it to under 60°C because this protects you from legionella.
- Flow restrictors on taps, and a low-flow shower head can reduce hot water usage.
- Homes lose heat through air leakage – identify where cold air is getting in using the smoke from an incense stick, or just by feeling with your hand. Common culprits are around windows and doors, and open fires. You can buy draughtproofing seals at DIY stores, unused open fires can be closed off with a “chimney balloon” or a “chimney sheep”, heat shrink glazing film can be applied to windows, you could make an old-fashioned fabric “draught-dog” to reduce the draught at the bottom of doors.
- Turn the heating down (but not off) in unused rooms.
- Dress warmly - hat, scarf, jumper, extra leggings, warm feet.
- If you cannot afford to turn your heating on then you might be able to afford to warm yourself with an electric blanket. Consider using an electric blanket if sitting.
- Making one room really cosy can allow you to have the rest of the house colder.
- Turning down the main thermostat a degree or two can save a lot of money over a year.
- Thickening curtains or DIY insulated shutters can retain more heat. Use them strategically - leave shut to the North, and open to the South when the sun is out to warm your home.

*Households with vulnerable people should take a cautious approach to these measures so as not to compromise health.*

[The Fire & Rescue Service](#) carry out free home safety visits - they are also a good point of contact for vulnerable households. **0800 05 02 999**

Your Local Authority will have further information on support for households, including “ECO4” grant funded home improvements for low income households.

The [Energy Saving Trust](#) have some good tips for reducing energy usage.

AgeUK produce a rather good [booklet on staying warm this winter](#).