

Reduce Your Household Running Costs - For Good!

\$SWITCH & \$SAVE

TOP TIPS
FOR BIG
SAVINGS



INSIDE:

New appliances
*that pay for
themselves!*

**BAMBOOZLED
BY BILLS?**

DECODE THE
DETAILS



COUNCIL SWITCHES STREET LIGHTS - SLASHING \$MILLIONS OFF ENERGY BILL

TOP TIPS FOR BIG SAVINGS

Yarra Ranges households spend over \$100 million every year on energy.

Check the **red tag** to see how much an average household could save by applying all of these simple tips.



Get Comfortable

Heating and Cooling

Wood, Gas, Air-Conditioning - whatever system you use to heat and cool your home, it shouldn't have to work hard.

The tiny gaps and cracks in your home can really add up. Sealing up draughts is the cheapest way to cut your heating and cooling bills. Most gaps are easy to fix with products available from hardware stores.

Installing or topping up insulation is a bigger job, but it can reduce heat loss by 90% and pay for itself in just a few years by halving your heating bills. Then it keeps on saving you money, for life. You'll also be more comfortable in a fully insulated home – all year round.

Keep it real. Heat to 18-20°C in winter. Cool to 24-26°C in summer. Every extra degree beyond this will add around 10% to your heating and cooling bill.



Ready to Save?

How well any insulation product does its job is measured by the 'R-value' (R is for Resistance to heat flow). A batt rated R2 is ok, but R3.5 would be better. You can add layers of insulation to increase the R-Value (e.g. $R2 + R3.5 = R5.5$).



Get the Jobs Done

Whitegoods

Your fridge works harder than any other appliance in your home. It needs room to breathe, so it can disperse heat efficiently. Keep at least a 5cm gap between your fridge and any walls.

Clothes dryers are another big energy user. Any load you can dry on the line will dry for free.

A front loading washing machine will use around half the water, power and detergent of a similar sized top loader. Front loaders also wash more gently, so your clothes last longer.

TOP TIPS FOR BIG SAVINGS



Entertain Yourself

Appliances

Relaxing at home can be a real drain on your wallet if appliances are left on standby. Switch off at the wall and save up to 10% off your energy bill.

When you're shopping for new gear, remember: the price tag is just the beginning. Over time, greedy appliances can cost more to run than they ever did to buy.

ENERGY SAVINGS GUIDE

When shopping for any appliance, look for the model with the most stars. A model with just 1 extra star can be 30% cheaper to run. Compare appliances (even older models) online at www.energyrating.gov.au

Screen Size	Star Rating	Energy Use*	Running Cost
138cm / 54 inch	★★	868	\$220 / yr
138cm / 54 inch	★★★★★	268	\$80 / yr
Total Saving:			\$140 / yr

* kWh / yr

"When we replaced our old fridge we didn't want to spend too much. We paid \$900 for a brand new, 4 Star model. I couldn't believe how much energy it saved. Our electricity use dropped instantly and we've saved \$250 in our first year. It never occurred to me that a new fridge could pay for itself so quickly!"

Rachel, Healesville

TOP TIPS FOR BIG SAVINGS



Light up your world

Lighting

Lights don't need extra power to get started - that's a myth. So turning lights off when they're not needed will always save energy.

Halogen down-lights use a lot of energy and create drafts and gaps in your ceiling insulation. Much more efficient LED and compact fluorescent replacements are now available and could save you \$20 a year per light.



Getting into hot water

Water heating

Gas, Electric, Solar - whatever system you have, it takes a lot of energy to heat water. Don't end up in hot water when your bill arrives!

Electric storage systems typically cost the most to run - expect to pay around \$1300/year.

Or for \$200/year you can get your hot water from the sun. A solar hot water system (with gas boost), might cost an extra \$3000 up front (compared to a new electric storage system) but you'll save more than \$1000 a year on your power bills.

Remember too that a water-efficient shower head and washing machine will reduce both your bills. You'll save water, and the energy it takes to heat it.



ENERGY SAVER CHECKLIST

Heating & Cooling

- Seal all gaps and cracks.
- Insulate ceiling to R6, walls and floor to R4.
- Heat to 18-20°C in winter. Cool to 24-26°C in summer.

Whitegoods

- Give the fridge room to breathe.
- Dry clothes on the line for free.
- Wait for a full load in the laundry, and wash on a cold cycle.

Appliances

- Switch off sleeping appliances at the wall.
- Use the energy star labels when shopping.

Hot Water

- Insulate the hot water pipes.
- Set the thermostat to 60°C on storage systems to avoid overheating.
- Turn off hot water system while away on holidays.
- Upgrade to a solar hot water system.

Lighting

- Turn off lights whenever they aren't needed.
- Replace halogen lights (and their hidden transformers) with LED alternatives.
- Install covers above all recessed down-lights to eliminate draughts and any gaps in ceiling insulation.



How Much Could You Save?

Every household is different.

These estimates are based on a typical bill, but you can calculate your own savings and explore your options at:

www.switchon.vic.gov.au
www.energymadeeasy.gov.au

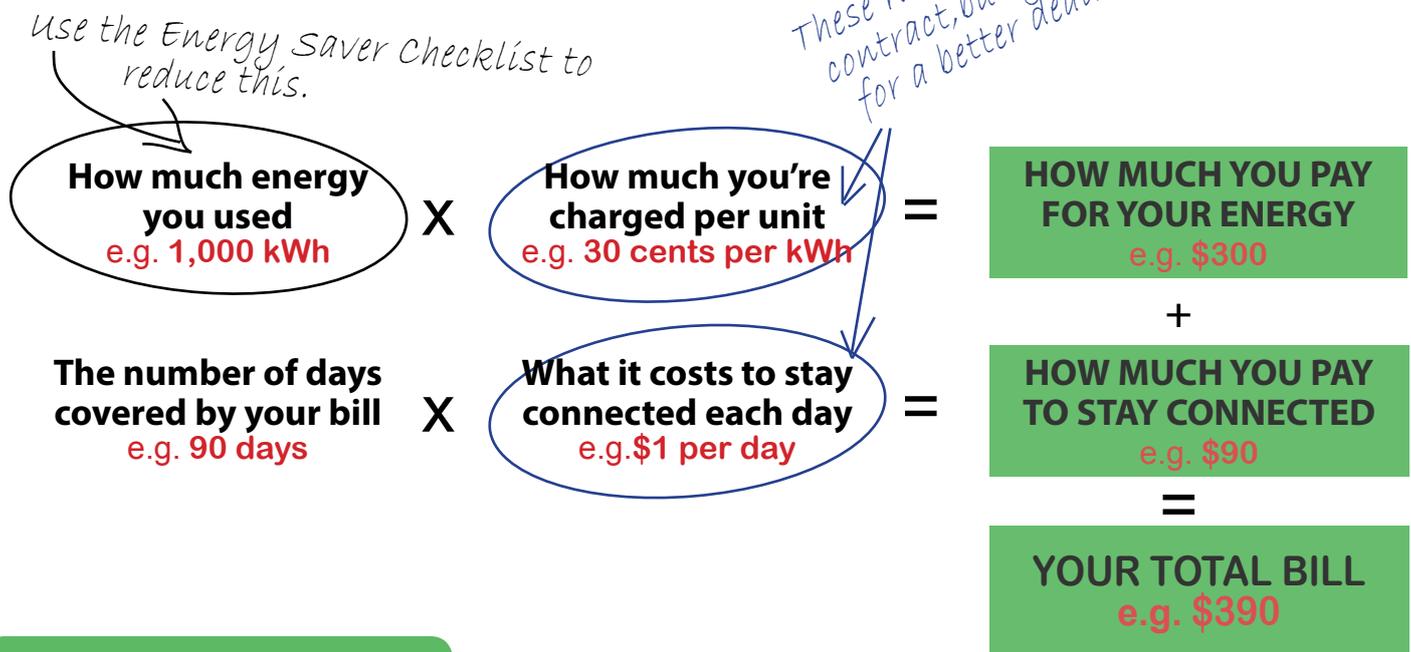
BAMBOOZLED BY YOUR BILLS?

Decode the details

A power bill can be packed with information. The top things to look for are:

1. How much energy you used.
2. How much you are being charged per unit.
3. The number of days covered by your bill.
4. What it costs to stay connected each day.

These combine to create your total bill like this:



IT'S WORTH KNOWING...

Some bills may be based on an estimate of your usage, but your meter should be read at least once a year so you only pay for the energy you've actually used.

For more information on your billing rights visit:

www.yourchoice.vic.gov.au



TWO MORE WAYS TO SWITCH & SAVE

1. Switch to solar

Got a sunny roof? - Collect your own free energy

The cost of installing solar panels has plummeted in recent years. With some deals you can pay nothing upfront - the system pays for itself in a few years from the savings on your energy bill. Quality panels will go on providing free energy for 25 years.

It's always wise to shop around, but solar on your own rooftop has never been more affordable.



2. Shop around for cheaper energy

Find a deal that works for you

Switching to a current 'market contract' that suits you better could lead to big savings.

If you've lived at the same address since 2001 and haven't started a new energy contract in that time, you may still be on what's called a 'standard contract'. Comparing energy offers online is getting easier. Search: 'compare energy', or visit www.switchon.vic.gov.au

There's a big switch coming to Yarra Ranges

We're replacing thousands of streetlights across the Yarra Ranges with more efficient technology.

This big switch will cost us \$1.85 million upfront, but the new lights will slash our energy bill by 70% overnight. That means they'll pay for themselves in a few years, and save us around \$8 million over their lifetime! This activity received funding from the Australian Government as part of the Community Energy Efficiency Program.

We're excited to be investing in an energy efficiency project that pays for itself, reduces our bills and helps the environment. If you'd like to do the same in your own home, we'd love to help.



For more information call us on 1300 368 333
or visit www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au



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Australian Government