

Insulation

Cavity Wall Insulation

If your home has unfilled cavity walls, then some of your energy costs are being wasted on heat being lost. Cavity wall insulation is quick, easy, clean and quite inexpensive to have installed. It can take two to three hours to have cavity wall insulation installed (based on a three bedroom semi-detached house).

	Annual saving per year	Installed cost
Cavity wall insulation	£130-£160	£500 or less

Loft Insulation

The recommended depth for insulating your loft is 270mm. By doing this you can save wasted energy and money. This can even be done yourself by getting advice at your local DIY store.

Draught Proofing

A simple test that can be applied here is by holding your hand up to your windows and doors; if you can feel cold air then warm air is escaping.

Many materials used for draught proofing are available from DIY stores and are a cost-effective way of reducing your energy bills. Some of the products available range from brushes, foams, sealants, strips and shaped rubber to plastic.

Grants are available to help with the cost of having the above measures installed for those who meet the criteria.

Tanks and pipes insulation

By fitting a 'jacket' to your hot water cylinder you could cut the heat that is lost by 75% saving you money. These can be found in DIY stores and are cheap and easy to fit. Make sure that the jacket that you fit is at least 75mm (three inches) thick. Pipe insulation will reduce the risk of pipes freezing. Both types of insulation will keep your water hotter for longer.

	Fitting a jacket to your hot water tank	Insulating Hot water pipes
Cost of fitting (DIY)	from £10	from £10
Annual saving on fuel bills	around £20	around £10
Costs recovered	around 6 months	1 year

Double glazing and secondary glazing

If you don't have double glazing then it is definitely worth thinking about having it done. If you can't afford to do all of your home, why not do the rooms that cost the most to heat? There are a wide range of windows to choose from but make sure you check out any restrictions on the property first. Choose windows that have the Energy Saving Recommended logo as these will be the most energy efficient.

If you are on a budget then secondary glazing is a possibility. It is less expensive and can still save you money on your heating bill.

More information

For more advice or a home visit, please contact:

Home Energy Advisor
Housing Strategy Team
Scottish Borders Council
Galashiels Area Office, Paton Street
Galashiels, TD1 3AS

Tel: 01896 661392

www.scotborders.gov.uk

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Saving Money on Energy Costs



Saving Money on Energy Costs

Here are some tips that will help to make your energy bill cheaper.

1. Always turn lights off when you leave a room.
2. Only boil the amount of water that you need.
3. Close curtains at dusk to stop heat escaping from the windows.
4. Turn your thermostat down by 1°. This could cut your heating bill by 10% and save you approx £40 per year.
5. Don't leave appliances on standby and don't charge appliances unless it's necessary.
6. Is your water too hot? Your cylinder thermostat should be set no higher than 60°C/ 140°F.
7. A dripping hot water tap wastes energy and in a week wastes enough water to fill a bath. Fix leaking taps and always make sure that they are turned off properly.
8. If you are only putting half loads in the washing machine or dishwasher, make sure that you use a half load or economy program.

9. Wash laundry at 30°. You can save up to 40% of the energy used when washing at higher temperatures.
10. Buy appliances that have the Energy Saving Recommended logo on them.
11. Install cavity wall insulation; a third of heat is lost through the walls.
12. Top up loft insulation. This can be installed yourself and could save you as much as £180-£220 a year on fuel bills.
13. Upgrade your boiler and install a condensing boiler. An old boiler can be wasteful. By installing a new one you could save a third on your fuel bills.

Replacing your boiler

The efficiency of a boiler is one of the main factors in overall efficiency of a domestic central heating system. The greatest energy efficiency benefits are from having a condensing boiler fitted. Using a high efficiency condensing boiler with heating controls could save you between £190 and £240 a year, significantly cutting your home's carbon dioxide emissions.

Switching energy suppliers and tariffs

Changing tariffs

There are a range of suppliers who you can get your gas and electricity from regardless of where you are in the UK. You can receive both your gas and electricity from the same supplier (known as dual fuel) or from separate suppliers.

Firstly you will have to calculate what you pay for your gas and electricity with your current supplier; this will enable you to compare prices of other suppliers. It is worth shopping around so that you can get the best deal.

There are a range of payment methods that you can choose from; your circumstances may affect which option you choose. You can pay weekly, monthly or quarterly and payment options include cash, postal order, cheque, direct debit and a pre-payment meter. The pre-payment meter is the more expensive option. Make sure there are no penalties for cancelling your contract.

It is important to find out about the supplier first. Energy Watch (www.ukenergywatch.org or telephone on 08459 06 07 08) can provide information about the service that a supplier provides by checking the number and the type of complaints they receive.

A quick guide to changing suppliers

1. Get in touch with your new supplier and decide on a contract. Once the contract is decided, it will take up to six weeks for this process to be completed. Your new supplier will keep you informed on the process.
2. Give your old supplier 28 days notice. Do this firstly over the phone and then with written confirmation. If you do not tell your old supplier this could delay your transfer to your new supplier.
3. Pay any outstanding bills with your old supplier. If you do not do this, your old supplier may prevent you from transferring.
4. Take a meter reading on the day you change suppliers. Give this to both your old and new supplier so that accurate bills for your account can be produced.