

EST Media Fact Sheet 2007-08

Your Home

The facts:

- Every household in the UK creates around six tonnes of carbon dioxide every year – enough to fill one hot air balloon. In fact, the average home emits twice as much CO₂ as the average car emits in a year.
- The average household spends £17 per week on fuel and power, over £900 per year.

The solutions:

- Increased energy efficiency - The average household could save £250 a year by being more energy efficient. This is equivalent to a saving of over 1.5 tonnes of CO₂.

The stats:

- Around £6.8 billion of energy is wasted in the UK every year. This is enough to give every man, woman and child in the UK £113 a year.

Walls, roof, windows and doors

The facts:

- Nearly 50% of all the heat lost in an average home is through the roof and walls
- More heat is lost through walls than any other route – approximately 33 per cent in an un-insulated home
- Around 20% of the heat in the average home is lost through ventilation and draughts
- A fifth of all the heat lost from a home can be through poorly insulated window frames and single glazing.

The solution:

- Installing 270mm (10 inches) of loft insulation can save up to fifteen percent of your heating costs.

- Cavity wall insulation is one of the most cost-effective energy efficiency measures you can take in the home. It can reduce heat loss through the wall by up to 60% and save you around £90 each year on your heating bill
- Invest in draught excluders for doors, windows and letterboxes opening onto the outside to reduce the amount of warm air escaping. Skirting boards are also worth tackling
- Double-glazing cuts heat loss and also reduces noise and condensation problems. Savings of around £90 on bills can be expected annually
- Close your curtains at dusk to stop heat escaping.

The stats:

- The amount of heat lost in homes annually through roofs and walls is enough to heat around 2.2 million homes for a year
- If everyone in the UK that could, installed cavity wall insulation, we would cut CO₂ emissions by around 6 million tonnes. That's enough CO₂ to fill 34 million double-decker buses or fill the new Wembley stadium 760 times.
- If every household in the UK, that could installed cavity wall insulation, it would save around £720 million a year – or enough energy to heat more than 1.4 million homes for the same period
- If everyone in the UK installed loft insulation up to 270mm thickness, the equivalent financial saving would pay the energy bills of 400,000 families for a year.

Heating and hot water

The facts:

- The older your boiler is, the more inefficient it is likely to be. If it is 15 years or older, you should definitely think about changing it
- On average, heating and hot water account for around 60% of the average fuel bill and, unless your home is newly built, your heating system is unlikely to be running as efficiently as it could.

The solutions:

- Replacing an old boiler could save you a third on your heating bills
- By upgrading heating controls you will improve the efficiency of any central heating system, and cut your energy wastage and costs by up to 17%. Fit the

right heating controls as well as a condensing boiler and you could bump the savings up to 40%

- Hot water will stay hot longer, and you will waste less energy heating it, if you insulate your hot water cylinder. Fitting a jacket to your hot water tank can cut wastage by three quarters – a cash saving of around £20 a year
- Hot water pipes lose heat right the way along, so insulate them wherever you can. Insulating hot water pipes can save around £8 a year on your fuel bills
- Reducing your heating thermostat by 1°C when you are too warm can cut up to 10% off bills.
- Water needn't be heated to a scalding temperature. But make sure you set the thermostat to at least 60°C or 140°F.

The stats:

- If everyone in the UK with gas central heating installed a condensing boiler, we would cut CO₂ emissions by nearly 14 million tonnes per year, saving £1.7 billion on our energy bills annually. This is enough energy to heat 3.7 million homes for a year
- CO₂ emissions would be cut by around 740,000 tonnes (enough to fill 4 million double-decker buses) if everyone in the UK put a jacket on their hot water tank
- If everyone in the UK installed a condensing boiler, the energy saved would be enough to heat every household in Scotland and Wales for a year.

Appliances

- Energy efficient appliances use less power and are cheaper to run. And because they need less energy, they're responsible for fewer greenhouse gas emissions back at the power station - good news for the environment
- To pick out energy efficient products from the pack, look out for the Energy Saving Recommended logo. The distinctive blue logo can be found on anything from fridges to tumble dryers, dishwashers and lightbulbs. It is a sure sign that the appliance being bought is one of the most efficient in its category.

Washing machines/Tumble dryers/Dishwashers

The facts:

- Over nine in 10 homes in the UK have a washing machine; 40 per cent have a tumble dryer and one in four have a dishwasher
- We use £1.4bn worth of electricity, by using washing machines, tumble dryers and dishwashers. This produces around 5.6 million tonnes (32 million double-decker buses) of carbon dioxide each year.
- The average washing machine is used for 274 cycles a year; a dishwasher for 248 cycles and a tumble dryer 148 times.

The solutions:

- An energy efficient washing machine uses a third less energy than an old, inefficient model and cuts water consumption considerably
- Using a 40°C wash cycle rather than 60°C means you use a third less electricity. Reduce the wash to a 30°C cycle and the amount of electricity saved (not to mention money) will be even higher. Modern washing powders and detergents work just as effectively at lower temperatures so unless you have very dirty washing, bear this in mind
- An energy efficient dishwasher uses around 40% less energy than an old, inefficient model. When using your dishwasher or washing machine, it's better to wait for a full load, or use the economy cycle if your machine has one

Refrigeration

The facts:

- UK households use £1.6 billion worth of electricity every year on cooling and freezing food and drinks
- The electricity wasted by our cold appliances causes the same CO₂ emissions as 2.5 million homes

The solutions:

- Buying an energy efficient fridge freezer to replace your inefficient model could cut carbon dioxide emissions from your home by up to 150kg a year
- An energy efficient fridge freezer uses only a third of the energy to do the same job as a 10-year-old appliance – that's a saving of up to £37 a year.

The stats:

- If everyone in the UK upgraded their old cold appliances to an Energy Saving Recommended product, it would save nearly £900 million worth of electricity. Enough CO₂ would be saved to fill 21 million double-decker buses and the electricity saved would be equivalent to the annual output of three 700MW power stations.

Other consumer electronics

The facts:

- The average household wastes £28 each year by leaving appliances on standby. Across the UK this is equivalent to the annual output of more than 2 700MW power stations.
- Households in the UK now spend around 8% of their electricity bill on standby power.
- UK households spend £1.8bn every year on electricity used in consumer electronic products
- Set-top boxes for the reception of digital TV are inexpensive to buy, being given away for free with subscription packages, but by 2010 they could be costing UK households £287m every year in electricity or £12 per household
- Every year TVs in the UK use £60 million worth of electricity just waiting to be switched on.
- The UK's DVDs and VCRs consume around £50 million worth of electricity each year whilst on standby, producing over 160,000 tonnes of CO₂
- If everyone boiled only the water they needed to make a cup of tea instead of "filling" the kettle every time, we could save enough electricity in a year to run over half of the street lighting in the country.

Lighting

The facts:

- In most homes, lighting accounts for 10 – 15% of the electricity bill
- A 100W light bulb left on for just ½ hour creates enough CO₂ to fill a party balloon.

- UK households use £1.8 billion worth of electricity every year on lighting
- Electricity consumption by domestic lights and appliances has nearly doubled since 1970 and it is set to increase by 12% to 2010.

The solutions:

- Energy saving light bulbs use different technology that enable them to produce a highly efficient and compact light using a fraction of the energy
- By buying an energy efficient light bulb rather than the other alternatives, you can cut energy wastage by over three quarters. That's a saving of up to £7 a year for a typical 100W bulb, or around £60 over the bulb's lifetime
- Energy efficient bulbs last around 10 times longer than their inefficient counterparts.

The facts:

- If every UK household installed 3 Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs enough energy would be saved in a year to supply all street lighting in the UK.
- If everyone installed one energy saving light bulb the carbon dioxide emissions saved would fill the Royal Albert Hall over 1000 times

General Information

Insulation

- Did you know that nearly 50% of the heat lost from an average house is through loft spaces and walls?
- By insulating these areas not only can you reduce your fuel bills, you can also make your home warmer
- By installing loft insulation to a depth of at least 270mm (10"), you could save around 15 percent on your heating costs
- If your home is un-insulated, up to a third of your heat can be lost through the walls

- Insulating cavity walls provides one of the biggest energy savings in the home, reducing heat loss through the wall by up to 60%.

Heating

- Installing a high efficiency condensing boiler and installing heating controls could save you around £200 a year (based on a 3 bed semi-detached house)
- Replacing a 15 year old boiler could save you a third on your heating bills
- By upgrading heating controls, you will improve the efficiency of your heating system and can cut heating costs by up to 17%
- By fitting a full controls package you could save up to £100 per year.

Glazing

- Around 20% of the heat lost from an average home occurs through the windows, by fitting double glazed low emissivity with integral draught sealing this can be reduced by more than half
- Replacing the single glazing in a typical semi-detached house with Energy Saving Recommended double-glazing can save around £90 per year.