

Keep draughts out of your home this winter ...

Two of the most effective things you can do to lower your electricity bill this winter ... and reduce electricity usage between 5pm and 9pm weekdays are to insulate and draught-proof your home.



Why draught-proof and insulate?

With winter in parts of the country seeing temperatures plummeting to well below zero householders are inclined to resort to heating the rooms in their homes.

During this time, when the outside temperature is lower than the inside temperature in your home, heat transfer takes place from the inside to the outside either via moving air through open windows and doors, or heat loss through the walls, floor and roof, resulting in the interior becoming uncomfortably cold – unless your heater is continuously on. **Unfortunately most heaters use a lot of energy which results in high electricity bills during winter.**

Good insulation makes your home up to 5°C warmer in winter (and 10°C cooler in summer). It reduces – and postpones – the need to switch on space heaters and air-conditioners. It also helps to lower your electricity costs – an insulated and draught-proofed room **requires less energy to heat.**

During winter, approximately **40% of heat is lost** through the roof if your home is not insulated.

What can you do?

Five easy steps:

1



Seal gaps around windows

2



Draught-proof wall cavities throughout your home as well as your chimney, if you have one. **Caulking and weather-stripping are best for sealing cracks and holes** (see the Note* when using a gas heater)

3



Draught-proof your doors, and make sure all your **door sweeps are in a good condition** (see the Note* when using a gas heater)

4



Install **window blinds or hang curtains** – it improves thermal insulation by preventing **heat from escaping out of your home**

5



Most importantly, **install fire-retardant ceiling insulation**; it is one of the most effective measures to improve energy efficiency in your home.

Visit www.eskom.co.za/idm for detailed information on electricity saving tips

Note: When considering insulating your home, talk to a specialist vendor; it is critical to choose the correct combination of materials and techniques to suit the location, positioning and design of your home.

Note*: If you are using a gas heater ensure that your home has an airbrick situated near the bottom of an external wall or a normal gap of at least 6 mm underneath an external door (or a combination of these) to provide sufficient ventilation, according to SANS 10087-1: 2013

