

How you can help to keep the lights on this winter ... especially between 5pm and 9pm weekdays

South Africa's homes – from flats and clusters to stand-alone houses and residential estates – demand 17% of the electricity used in our country.

But on weekdays, between 5pm and 9pm, **this demand increases and peaks at 35%**, a huge jump that puts severe strain on the power supply.



Why does this happen



The first thing we do, on arriving home from work around 5pm, Monday to Friday, is switch on the lights, television, and our electrical space heaters, followed by the oven, the microwave and the washing machine or dishwasher. We also run hot water in the kitchen and take a bath or shower.


Millions of us follow this evening routine at the same time, which means South Africa's households on **weekdays**, use more than **one third of the electricity consumed in the country between 5pm and 9pm**.


As the demand increases, Eskom does all it can, including running some emergency power stations during the day, **to balance supply and demand**.

This winter we need to continue with power station maintenance and the system will be tighter during the peak period from 5pm to 9pm.

What can you do to help keep the lights on this winter?

- 1**  **Switch off your electrical element geyser between 6pm and 7pm;** this appliance uses the most electricity of all in the home, and can account for up to **50% on your electricity bill**

- 2**  **Don't switch on your space heater between 5pm and 9pm.** This appliance is **energy-intensive and can account for up to 16%** on your monthly electricity bill, instead, dress warmly and use a hot water bottle and blankets to keep warm

- 3**  **Switch off your pool pump between 5pm and 9pm;** this appliance uses the second most electricity of all in the home and can account for up to 11% on your electricity

Let's switch off together ... and keep South Africa powered up this winter