

Hot water and geyser management

Residential Fact sheet



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Heating water consumes the highest amount of energy in the average household. Understanding your hot water consumption habits is a key component of any energy-saving strategy. Knowing what the right system is for your home can greatly reduce your energy consumption, minimise water wastage and save you money in the long run.

One of the most effective measures you can take to curb your home's need for water heating is to use less hot water. Ultimately, the less water your geyser must heat up, the less energy it consumes. There are various tangible measures you can take to help reduce your hot water consumption and in turn use less energy.

Check the temperature setting of your geyser

1

A lower temperature setting on your geyser means that less energy is consumed for water heating. Lower the temperature on your geyser to 60°C; and save on your water heating costs. You'll save 3 to 5 % for every 10-degree reduction*.

Take short showers instead of baths

2

Your savings here depend on you and your family's habits. Taking a short shower uses much less hot water than filling a bath. A warm bath is a nice luxury, but for daily bathing stick to a short shower.



*Source: <https://www.thespruce.com/save-money-water-bill-1388209>

Turn off your geyser

When you're away for more than three days and are not using your geyser, switch it off and then turn it back on three hours before you need hot water

3

Use the cold water setting on your washing machine

When washing clothes, make sure you use cold water. Use hot washes only when absolutely necessary.

4

Use your dishwasher efficiently

Wash only full loads, choose shorter wash cycles, and activate the booster heater if your dishwasher has one.

5



Install an energy efficient showerhead

Putting off a bathroom update is one thing, but don't put off replacing old plumbing fixtures. If your showerheads and hot water taps were manufactured before 1992, replace them with energy efficient models. Modern showerheads use half as much water as older showerheads.

6



Insulate your geyser and water pipes

New geysers are well insulated, so they lose less heat. If you have an older geyser, it may not be as well insulated. Look up the R-value of your geyser in the owner's manual, and if it's less than R-24, install an insulation blanket. Also insulate water pipes with pipe cladding for the maximum benefit, to further reduce heat loss*.

7

Fix leaking taps

South Africa is a water scarce country so don't put off fixing a leaking tap. Then consider this: a faucet with a slow leak (that's 60 drips per minute) wastes 11 935 litres of water per year. If that leak happens to be coming from the hot water tap, you're not only paying for that wasted water but also the energy it takes to heat it.

8

By implementing these tips to manage your hot water usage, you'll only use what you need in electricity and save money. Remember to keep an eye out and respond to the real-time Power Alert messages on SABC, etv and DStv to help manage the strain on the electricity system. Together we can make a difference and keep the lights on. Please visit our website for energy saving tips at www.eskom.co.za/residential

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