

How to save gas around the home



There's a lot you can do to use less gas around your home – here are just a few of them.

Upgrade your gas appliances

With more energy-efficient appliances on the market than ever before, make sure you're investing in the models which use gas in the most efficient way.

Lower the thermostat

If your thermostat is set to a high temperature, your gas bill is bound to be expensive. Try lowering your thermostat a few degrees to reduce your bill by 5-10%. For instance, turn the temperature down from 22 °C to 20 °C.

Turn off or turn down the heating when you're not home

Don't keep the heat on in your home when it's not necessary. Turn off the heat when you're out at work or if you do not intend to return home for several hours. You can also turn your thermostat down if you do not expect to be home for a few hours. The energy saved will reduce the cost of your gas bill.

Reduce the use of personal heaters

Personal, or space, heaters use up a lot of energy. Plus, they are an inefficient way of warming up large areas. Avoid using them and instead look for more efficient ways to keep warm. If you want to warm a small space only, a personal heater may be more effective than heating the whole home. Choose a radiant heater, which are more energy-efficient than other models.

Save energy with radiator valves

Some areas in your home need to be warmer than others. For example, it may be important to you to keep the ground floor well heated during the day. You can control the heat by using radiator valves on radiators within your home. These self-regulating valves allow you to control the temperature of each room by adjusting the amount of hot water goes to the radiator

Invest in a smart thermostat

Smart thermostats are devices that connects your heating system to the internet – letting you change the temperature or switch your heating off via your smartphone or other device when you're out and about. Remember, you need an internet connection to use them.

A smart thermostat is different to smart meters. Unlike GB, energy suppliers do not fit smart meters in households within NI. You install or arrange installation of smart thermostats yourself – so it doesn't matter which energy provider supplies your energy. Also, they don't affect you when switching suppliers.

A smart thermostat will enable you to track your gas usage and make adjustments when it comes to using less.

How much do smart thermostats cost?

Smart thermostats typically cost anywhere between £150 and £280, depending on make and model. Most makers also offer professional installation. This usually adds about £50 to £100, but some can be easy to install yourself and most brands have installation instructions.

Can smart thermostats help you save money?

There's no guarantee you'll save money – it all depends on your habits:

- Good for you if you come home at different times every day; if you're home a little later one day, you can delay the heating coming on remotely with smart thermostats.
- Not so good for you if your routine is set (you leave the house at the same time every day, returning at the same time). As you can programme most thermostats to come on at specific times, a traditional thermostat would do. Similarly, if you work from home, you can turn the heating up (or down/off) manually if it gets cold (or too warm) in the property.

Switch to another energy suppliers

Even though there are only two energy suppliers to choose from (i.e., firmus energy and sse Airtricity), it's well worth checking if you can save by switching. Based on typical use, some can save £100+/yr switching from the most expensive tariff to the cheapest.

Compare to find YOUR cheapest price

The Consumer Council is an independent organisation with a legal responsibility to protect consumers' interests.

To compare, you can visit: https://www.consumercouncil.org.uk/comparison_tool/begin
– It's free and offers a full market comparison.