

How tenants can save heating costs and energy

Tenants often have no influence on the investments made in the refurbishment of their apartment building. Nevertheless, by taking small actions and behaving carefully, they can save a lot of energy and therefore costs and CO₂.

Ventilate properly

Tenants should turn down the radiators three to four times a day and open the windows fully for a short time. Opening the windows wide for short periods can save **about 15 per cent** in heating costs.

-15%



Dry washing

Clothes should be dried in a drying room, on the balcony or in the back yard or garden, not on the radiators. Damp clothes prevent the warm air from circulating. Damp clothes dry even when it is freezing outside.



Insulate the wall behind the radiator

Radiator foil helps to prevent the heat from escaping through the outside wall. The foil can be bought in DIY stores. It reflects the heat radiating to the wall back into the room. Every year, each square metre of uninsulated wall behind radiators costs up to 15 euros in lost heat.



-10 to -20%

Let heat circulate

Floor-length curtains absorb around 20 per cent of the heat. Curtains above the radiators, on the other hand, provide additional protection to stop heat escaping through the windows. Tenants save **about 10 per cent**. If the windows have roller blinds, it is even **20 per cent**.

-66,6%



Showering instead of taking a bath

Anyone who is under the shower for five minutes uses **only a third** of the energy required for a full bath.

-50%



Water-saving shower heads

Modern shower heads can mix air into the water jet. This means that **up to 50 per cent** less hot water comes out of the shower per minute.



Save hot water

Simply turn off the tap while you are cleaning your teeth or washing your vegetables.

-20%



Seal windows

You can easily find a draught by moving a candle along the frame of the closed window. If the flame flickers, you've found the draught. Window seals can stop the heat loss. This will give you energy savings of **up to 20 per cent**, especially in older buildings.



Insulate doors

If there is a draught coming through the door, a draught excluder with a brush closes the gap under the door particularly well.



-30%

Clean radiators

Dirt and dust can reduce heat output. The dirt can be removed with special brushes or a hair dryer. The potential saving is **up to 30 per cent**.



Replace thermostatic valves

Most radiators have mechanical valves with a numerical scale. These old valves are often inaccurate. Newer valves – for example remotely controlled ones with a digital display – are more accurate and so can help save energy. Tenants should ask their landlords whether they can change the thermostatic valves themselves.