



# Energy efficiency

with Paul Myors

## Put the freeze on winter bills



For many Sydney homes the winter energy bill is the biggest of the year. The good news is that it's easy to stay warm without spending a fortune.

Heaters can use a lot of energy so close doors and only heat rooms you're actually using.

By closing the curtains and using an old-fashioned "door snake" to stop draughts you can prevent significant heat losses and save your heater working overtime.

If you're still feeling cold, consider throwing on a jumper or rug rather than turning the heater up, with 18-21 degrees Celsius the most energy-efficient and comfortable room temperature.

Before buying a new heater, think about where you'll be using it.

While more expensive to buy, gas heaters and reverse-cycle air conditioners provide more heat at a lower cost and are best suited to heating a large space. Electric radiators, fan heaters and oil column heaters are cheaper to buy but expensive to run, however they have their place for direct personal heating, or heating a small space.

If you're shopping around for a new electric heater and want to know how it will affect your bill, find out the rating in kW and multiply it by 13c to get the approximate hourly running cost.

■ PAUL MYORS is an energy efficiency expert from EnergyAustralia.

For more details go to  
[www.energy.com.au](http://www.energy.com.au)  
or call 13 15 35

