



# Energy efficiency

with Paul Myers

## Down lights don't have to increase costs

Installing energy efficient light bulbs is one of the easiest ways to save money and energy around the home. Generally, these bulbs shine just as bright as standard bulbs, use 80% less energy and last up to eight times longer.

But what about the increasing number of halogen down lights being used in homes and businesses around the country?

Halogen down lights are great for feature lighting because of their strong directional beam – whether it's to highlight art work or shop displays. However they are not an efficient option for general lighting.

A single low voltage halogen light bulb is actually more efficient than a standard light bulb. But, once you factor in transformer losses from the low voltage halogen and the higher number of down lights needed to get good lighting across a whole room, they become a much more energy intensive option.

**To talk to Paul Myers about these or other energy efficiency tips call (02) 9966 7985 or go to [www.energy.com.au/efficiency](http://www.energy.com.au/efficiency)**



If you want your down lights to be more energy efficient try and use a 20W or 35W bulb, rather than the usual 50W globe. Dimming halogens will reduce their energy use and it's also wise to install them so they can be switched in small groups, rather than one switch for a whole room.

The good news is that energy efficient down lights are now becoming available that give a broader and more diffuse light than halogen bulbs, which is great for general lighting. Just like normal energy efficient bulbs they use about 80% less energy and last much longer. If you have existing 240V down light fittings, it's as simple as switching light bulbs.

However, for most people who have low voltage halogens you will need an electrician to change your fittings before you swap to the energy efficient bulbs.

■ PAUL MYORS is an energy efficiency expert from EnergyAustralia.



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