

Maintenance and settings

In the last 6 years of the EnergyNeighbourhoods project the experts of GreenDependent evaluated several hundreds of household energy audits. We found a lot of typical maintenance and operational issues that households should pay more attention to.

We gathered these findings – or energy saving tips - in the following table...

Make sure that your equipment is checked and maintained regularly!

	Things to do	Energy saving
Fridge/freezer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean the condenser coils on the back of the fridge regularly; • Regularly defrost manual-defrost models; • Check if the fridge and the freezer are set to the right temperature (you might need to purchase a refrigerator thermometer, see examples here). <p>Optimum temperatures: fridge: +5°C, freezer: -18°C</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without the cleaning, your fridge can consume up to 20-30% more energy. • If the temperature setting is not correct (too low), the energy consumption increases by 5% with each degree.
Electric boiler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descale your boiler every year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 mm of scale could increase energy consumption by up to 10%
Other types of water heaters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the temperature settings <p>You can lower temperatures (1) in accordance with the weather, (2) if you go travelling (3) or twhen you spend less time at home or have less people in your home</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you decrease the temperature from 60-80°C to 50°C, you can reduce your energy consumption by 20-50%.
Heating system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that your heating system, furnace and gas units are checked every year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the heating system is well-maintained, heating costs can be reduced by as much as 10%.
Radiators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean your radiators regularly • Also bleed them (i.e. let the trapped air out) minimum once a year. See e.g. here for how to do this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly vented radiators consume up to 15% less energy.
Gas stove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean the burners and the cooking surface regularly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping the stove clean can save up to 10% of its energy consumption.
Taps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly check and descale taps and shower heads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dripping tap can waste as much as 800 litres of water per month
Washing machine (and other electronic devices that use hot water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you want your washing machine to have a long lifespan, regularly clean its pump filter, which can be found at the front of the machine at the bottom. If you forget to do it, the pump can be damaged. • It is also important to prevent lime scale build up. At least once a year clean the machine with vinegar. <p>(Pour 2 dl 10% vinegar into the machine, and start a 60 degree program. When the water is already warm, stop the program for an hour, and let the vinegar do its job. Then continue the washing cycle, drain out the vinegar water, and rinse the machine.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All water heaters and household appliances that use hot water consume more energy if limescale builds up in the machine: the scale on the heating element can make it take longer to warm up, and increase the energy consumption of the machine. So, check you boiler, coffee machine, kettle, diishwasher as well as the iron regularly. You can successfully clean most of the appliances with vinegar. • 1 mm of scale can increase energy consumption by as much as 10%.

Useful information, contact, funding partners

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