

# HOME ENERGY AUDIT INSTRUCTIONS

## What is a home energy audit?

A Home energy audit is an assessment of how energy efficient your property is, identifying ways to reduce your energy use to save money on your bills and reduce your carbon footprint.

You won't need any equipment. Follow the five steps below to complete your audit.



## 1. Look at your energy bills and usage to find high usage appliances

*You will need to have a smart meter to complete this step*

If you have a smart meter, you can access your usage data online through your energy supplier's website. You can have your smart meter set to send readings either monthly, daily or half hourly. Half hourly readings give you the most detail and can even let you monitor the energy usage of specific appliances. Follow the below steps:

- Examine energy usage charts
- Look for periods of high energy consumption
- Identify the appliances using lots of energy
- Think about, reducing use, using alternative more efficient appliances (e.g. air fryer instead of oven), use power saving modes, replace appliances if old and inefficient

Alternatively, you can use the in-home display to monitor appliance energy use by turning them on one at a time.



## 2. Check you have LED light bulbs

Check you have LED lightbulbs in all your overhead lighting and lamps. Older bulbs will tend to have tubes or spirals of glass and may take time to reach full brightness. LED bulbs are much more efficient and last longer than older bulbs. They may be more expensive, but they will pay themselves back.



### 3. Check your heating settings



- Set programmers and timers for only when you need heat – set it so the heating comes on 30 minutes before you wake up, and turns off 30 minutes before you go to bed, for example.
- Aim to keep your thermostat between 18–21°C, reducing the temperature even by just 1 degree can save lots of energy.
- Turn down the heat setting on individual radiators in rooms that are usually empty by turning the dial on the side of the radiator.
- If you have a gas boiler, check the flow temperature. Set the temperature to 65°C if possible, but don't go lower. This temperature stops the growth of harmful bacteria. Also check that the boiler pressure stays between 1.0 and 2.0 bars to make sure it is running as efficiently as possible.

### 4. Check for draughts



Draughts come into your house through gaps and cracks. First, look for any obvious gaps:

- Windows
- Doors
- Chimneys, pipes & cracks
- Floorboards & skirting boards

You can use a lit candle to detect draughts by holding it near likely areas and seeing if the flame moves. Draughtproofing materials can be bought from DIY shops and fitted quite easily. You can also have a professional do this for you.

### 5. Check your property's insulation levels



The easiest way to find out if your property needs any insulation is to go to [www.SwitchedOnPortsmouth.co.uk](http://www.SwitchedOnPortsmouth.co.uk) and generate a bespoke energy report for your property for free.

This report will tell you if you need to top up your loft insulation, fill your cavity walls or insulate any hot water tanks. This will be presented with estimated costs and links to grant funding, where available!

If it's safe to do so, you can also check your loft insulation by accessing your loft. For the best results, your insulation should be over 270mm thick.

### Apply for a free Energy Advice Home Visit

If eligible, you could have a qualified, friendly and impartial energy advisor visit your home to provide energy saving advice, install small measures (such as LED light bulbs and draught proofing) and refer you into grant funded schemes for insulation, heating systems, solar panels and more!

Call our freephone advice line for further advice and to see if you are eligible.

**0800 260 5907** (Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm)