

# Stopping Draughts

It takes much more energy to heat and cool your home when there are holes in it! Draughts can account for up to 25% of heat loss in winter.

Thankfully, draughts are often easy to solve using simple inexpensive DIY techniques.

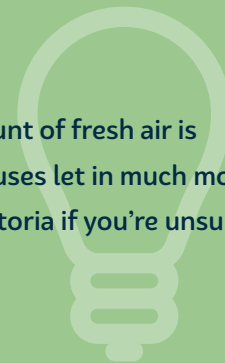
Examples include:

- ✓ Draught stoppers and weatherstripping on doors and windows
- ✓ Sealing old plaster wall vents and chimneys when not in use
- ✓ Draught stoppers on exhaust fans
- ✓ Filler on gaps between walls, window frame, architraves and skirting boards

## Safety Tip

If you have a wood heater or unflued gas heater, a small amount of fresh air is needed to prevent carbon monoxide build up. Many older houses let in much more than is required, but check with a plumber or Energy Safe Victoria if you're unsure.

 <https://esv.vic.gov.au/campaigns/carbon-monoxide/>



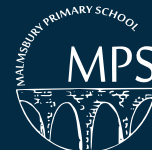
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# LED Lighting



LED lights are highly efficient, switch on instantly, and are available in a wide range of styles. Some LEDs can be easily retrofitted yourself, while others might need the fixture to be replaced by an electrician.



LED Downlight



LED Batten Light

## 💡 Did you know?

Because halogen downlights require nearby roof insulation to be removed, upgrading to LEDs and reinstating this insulation can make your home much cosier as well!

## Lighting efficiency guide

LED	☆☆☆☆☆
Fluorescent/CFL	☆☆☆
Incandescent/Halogen	☆



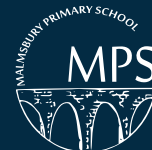
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# Heating

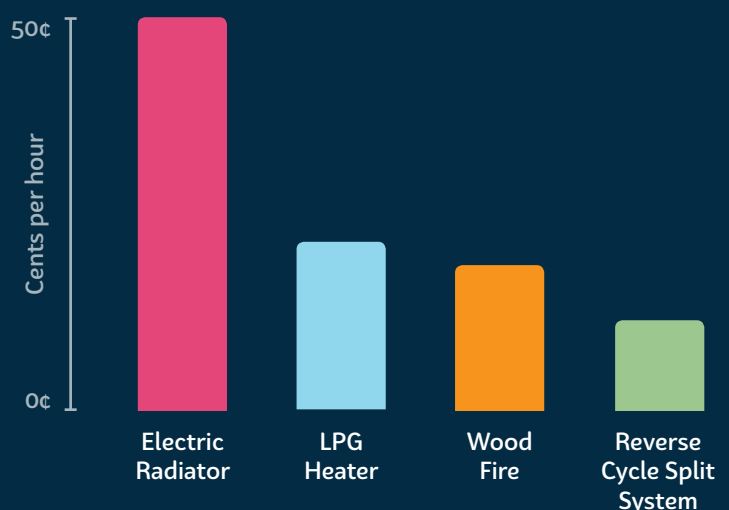


Winters are chilly in Malmsbury! Across Central Victoria, a significant portion of annual energy use is dedicated to keeping us warm over winter.

Did you know that the most energy efficient option is to use your split system? These are 'heat pumps', that can concentrate heat from one area and move it to another. In summer you might use them for cooling, but 'reverse cycle' units can run the other way for heating as well.

The table below outlines what it would cost to deliver 2 kW of heating from different sources.

## Heating costs comparison guide



### 💡 Did you know?

While a wood fire is cosy, it generates air pollution that makes some people unwell.

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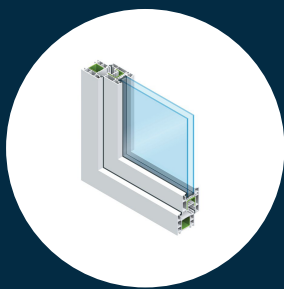
# Windows



While windows are a welcome source of natural light, they're poor insulators, accounting for up to 20% of heat loss in winter. If they let too much light in during summer, windows can also make your home harder to cool.

New double glazing is expensive, but there are plenty of alternatives.

- ✓ Cellular (honeycomb) blinds and thick curtains with a pelmet are almost as effective as double glazing
- ✓ Removable secondary glazing
- ✓ Adhesive window films, which can reduce heat loss/gain. Even bubble wrap is rather effective!



A typical double glazed window cross section

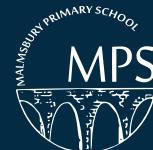
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# Energy Monitoring

Checking your smart meter data is a great way to better understand when you're using the most energy.

Logon to the Powercor myEnergy website to see how your electricity use changes each half hour, each day or between seasons, and how it compares to other homes in your postcode. If you have solar, you can also see how much electricity you are exporting to the grid.

<https://powercor.com.au/myenergy>

Those with solar might have access to more in-depth and immediate data via their inverter. You can also install a third-party in-home electricity monitor, which allows you to see your electricity use in real-time as you turn things on and off.



Powercor's  
myEnergy Portal

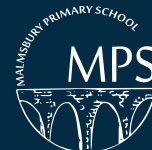
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# Insulation



Insulation makes your home more comfortable by reducing heat escaping during winter and heat entering during summer. Unfortunately most homes built before 2006 have inadequate insulation, and sometimes none at all! It is possible to retrofit insulation in most homes.

## Minimum insulation guide

### Ceiling

- It's important to get this right as the largest heat losses are through the ceiling
- R5 insulation (at least 250mm thick) made from fibreglass or polyester
- Avoid gaps, unless required for safety e.g. around lights

### Walls

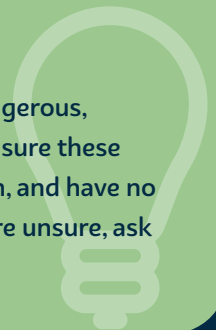
- Loose-fill insulation can be pumped into walls cavities via small holes or
- R2 insulation batts (about 90mm thick) installed by removing the cladding

### Floors

- For timber floors, fix at least R2 batts between floor joists if there is sufficient access
- For concrete floors, place foam insulation around the perimeter

## Safety tip

Ceiling spaces can be dangerous, so it's important to make sure these spaces are safe to work in, and have no electrical hazards. If you're unsure, ask a professional for advice.



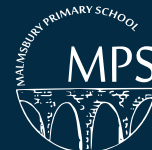
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# Motion Sensor Lights

Motion sensors are a great way to reduce lighting energy use in infrequently used areas like bathrooms and storage spaces.

Some sensors can be added by an electrician, while others can be self-installed, with sensors either built into the light bulb, or operating as part of a home automation system. These sensors can be used to switch lights off altogether, or just reduce the brightness when no-one is present.



Sensor style globe



Outdoor sensor light combination

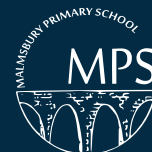
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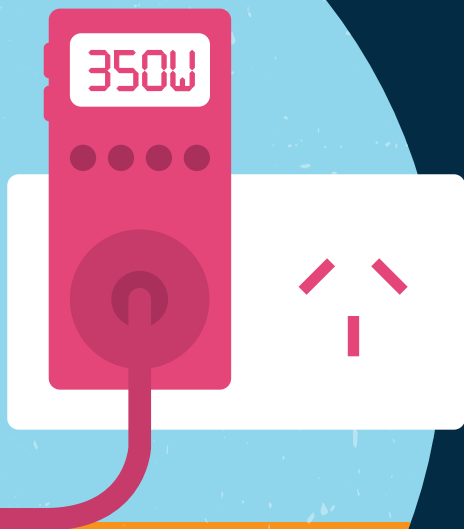


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# Standby Power



Did you know some appliances consume electricity even when they're not operating, sometimes called 'vampire power'? TVs, microwaves, printers and computers are some of the common culprits, and it can add up on your electricity bill.

To save money and energy, use timers, turn appliances off at the wall or use intelligent powerboards and adaptors to block power use when the device goes into standby mode.

## 💡 Did you know?

For around \$20, you can buy a plug-in energy meter to measure standby power around your home.



Timer switch



Energy meter

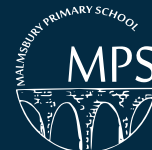
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# Solar



Detail of a typical solar panel

Rooftop solar is one of the best investments you can make to reduce your energy bills and prevent carbon emissions. Solar is worth considering for just about every home and business that has roof space available.

- ✓ You need some sunny roof space (a little shading in winter and in the early morning/evening is okay). North is ideal, but east, west and even south are workable
- ✓ To save the most money, align your electricity usage to when solar is being generated. For example, put your washing machine on a timer to run in the middle of the day
- ✓ While the costs and savings depend upon your circumstances, in 2019 a 6kW solar system is typically around \$7,000 (~\$5,000 with Solar Homes subsidy), with a payback of around 5 to 7 years

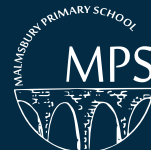
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