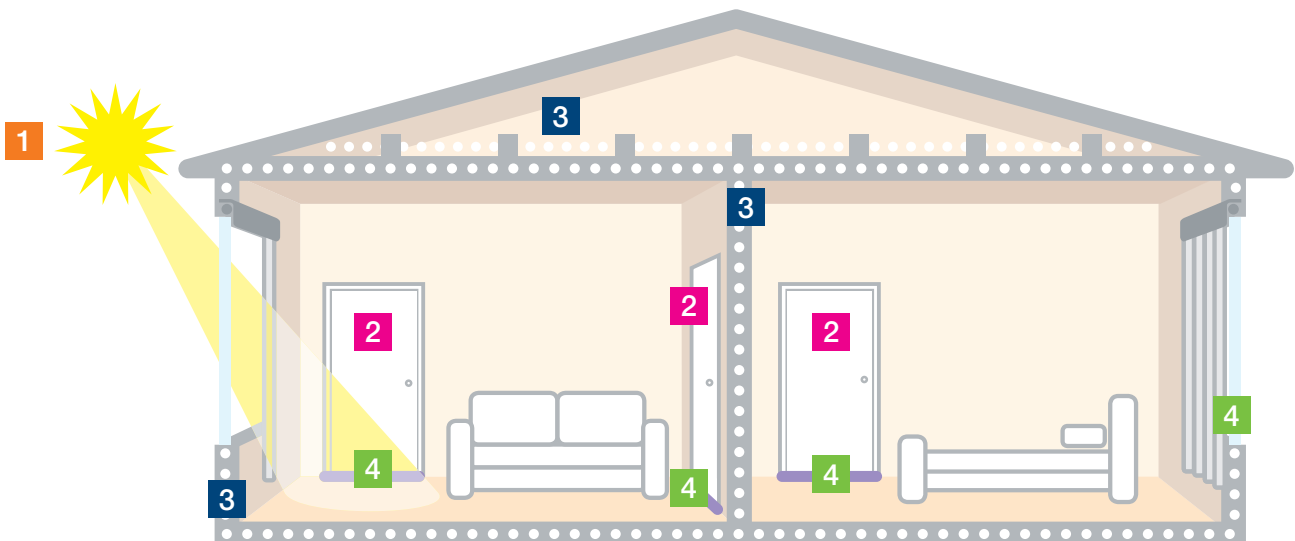


Winter heating guide 2017

How to stay warm and comfortable in your home this winter

No one wants to spend more than they need to when heating their home. Before turning your heater on this winter, make sure your home is well-insulated, draught-proofed and that you are only heating the areas you need.



1 Let the sun shine into your home

Use the sun to help heat your home for free. Open curtains and blinds during the day and move things blocking out light, such as external shading.

If the sunlight warms a tiled or concrete floor, some heat will be stored and released later, warming your home into the evening.

2 Only heat the areas you need

The larger the area you heat, the more energy you will use and the higher your running costs will be.

Divide your home into sections (or zones) by closing doors to only heat the areas you're using and reduce your heating costs e.g. heat only your living areas during the day.

3 Insulation

Insulation is any material that reduces the amount of heat transferred in to or out of your home through the ceiling, walls, windows, doors and floor.

Insulation will help keep your home warmer in winter, reduce your need for heating appliances and lower your heating costs.

4 Draught proofing

Cracks and gaps can cause draughts and lose large amounts of heat from your home.

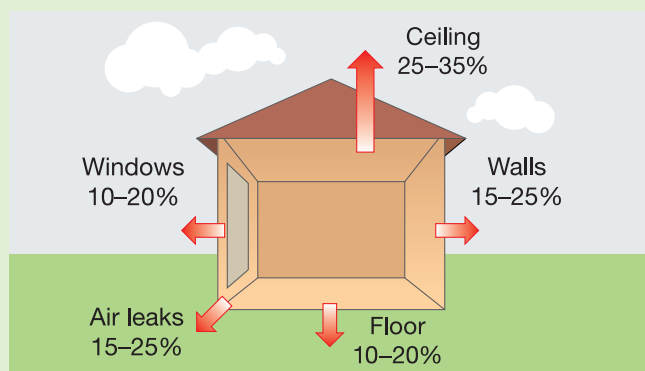
Simple changes, like using draught excluders under doors, sealing strips around doors and window frames and filling gaps, could help reduce your heating costs.

More about draught proofing and insulation

The diagrams below show where heat is lost from a typical home. Up to 60% of your heating could be lost through your ceiling and walls.

If you don't have ceiling insulation, consider having it installed. If you rent, ask your landlord if they will have it installed. Insulation can deteriorate over time (e.g. batts compress) and become less effective. Topping up or replacing your old insulation can make a big difference to the heat retention of your home.

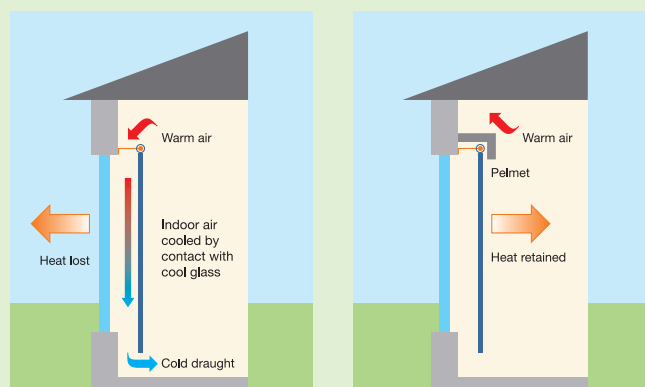
When choosing an installer, use a builder who is licensed to install insulation in South Australia. Visit sa.gov.au/energy for more information.



Typical heat loss in winter from an uninsulated home
Source: yourhome.gov.au

Up to 20% of your heating could be lost through your windows. Thick curtains with pelmets are an effective way to insulate windows, keeping rooms warmer in winter.

Warm air is cooled when it comes into contact with a cool window. Pelmets closed at the top minimise air flowing between the curtains and the windows, and reduce heat loss – see diagram below.



Curtains without pelmets (left) and with pelmets (right) in winter.

Choosing the best heater for your needs

Heaters work in different ways, so the best sort of heater to use depends on what you want to heat. When you have different heating options available for heating your home, you can reduce the amount of energy you need to heat your home and your energy costs by choosing the best option for your needs.

The table on the next page suggests the most effective heater types for different situations and provides estimated running costs. The costs are indicative for your existing heating appliances. If you are buying a new heater, see the section below.

The first row shows heater options for one or two people staying in one space, e.g. watching television. These are best if your home has large living areas and your only heating option is a small heater which may not be large enough to heat the whole area. Radiant heaters and electric rugs heat you directly, but not the whole room.

The other rows show heaters that heat different sized areas and are best if people are moving around.

The heaters listed in the table will be most effective when used in a well-insulated, draught-proofed home (gas heaters require good ventilation; see carbon monoxide safety on the back page of this guide).


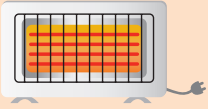
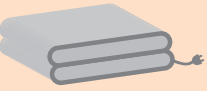

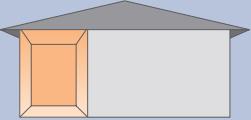


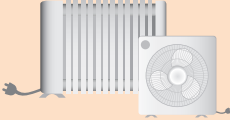
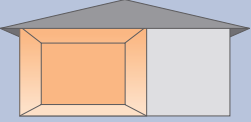
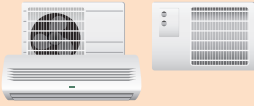
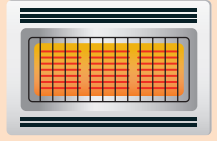
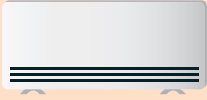
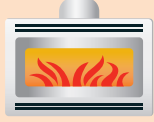

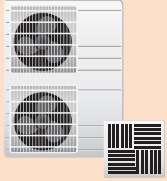
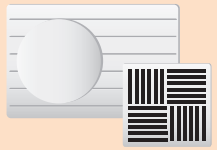
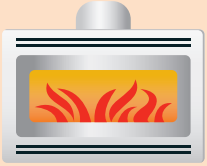
Be aware that portable heaters, such as oil heaters, may be low cost to purchase but can be very expensive to run if used to heat larger rooms. If a portable heater is your only option, you can lower running costs by reducing the size of the area you're heating, for example by closing doors.

You may also be able to lower your costs by getting a cheaper energy deal. Visit energymadeeasy.gov.au to compare energy deals available in South Australia.

Buying a new heater

If you are buying a new heating appliance, talk to a heating specialist about the best option for your needs and the associated costs of that heater. For example, if you are considering purchasing a gas heater but don't currently have gas connected to your property, you will need to take into account the cost of the gas supply charge. If you already have gas connected for cooking or water heating, it may be more cost effective to install a gas heater rather than an electric one.

Use energy rating labels to help you compare how much energy different heaters use. Refer to the green box on the right for more information.

I want to heat	Hourly running costs			
1 or 2 people in one place 	Electric radiant heater (1kW)  36¢	Electric heated rug  4¢	Electric blanket  4¢	
Small room floor space 12m² 	Small reverse cycle air conditioner  13¢	Electric panel heater  43¢	Electric portable heater (2.4kW)  43¢	
Large room floor space 36m² 	Reverse cycle air conditioner  36¢	Gas heater  43¢	Electric heat bank (off-peak)  61¢	Small combustion fire  51¢
Whole of house floor space 200m² 	Zoned ducted reverse cycle air conditioner  \$2.12	Zoned ducted gas heating  \$1.45	Large combustion fire  \$1.31	

Running costs are to be used as guidance only and are based on the AGL electricity and Origin Energy gas standing retail contracts. For further methodology information, please contact the Government of South Australia's Energy Advisory Service on 8204 1888 or 1800 671 907.

Energy rating labels

Some heaters will have an energy rating label like the ones pictured. You can use these to compare the energy use and efficiency of similar sized appliances. The more stars the better.

You can find out more about energy rating labels at energyrating.gov.au

Knowing how much your appliance costs to run will help you keep track of your energy costs.

Find out more about running costs online at sa.gov.au/energy/runningcosts or call the Government of South Australia's Energy Advisory Service on 8204 1888.

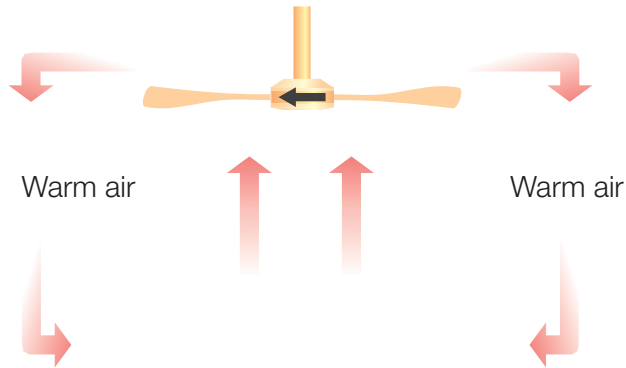


Energy rating labels allow you to compare the energy efficiency and energy consumption of some electric and gas appliances.

Fans can help with heating

Reversible ceiling fans can complement your heating by helping to disperse hot air around a room.

Warm air rises and collects in a layer just underneath the ceiling. If your ceiling fan has a reversing switch, use it to circulate this warm air throughout the room.



Ceiling fans can improve the effectiveness of heating by helping to move the warm air around a room faster.

Tips to make your heating more effective

Saving energy by reducing the amount of heating you need can be as easy as making some simple and practical changes.

- Dress appropriately for the weather. Wearing a jumper in winter will allow you to set your heater's thermostat to a lower temperature, saving energy.
- Set your heater's thermostat to 18–21°C or as low as you feel comfortable with. Every degree lower may reduce the running costs by up to 10%.
- Choose the best heater for your needs based on the size of the area you need to heat. A heating specialist can help you with this decision.
- Adjust your heater's louvres towards the floor, as hot air rises. Keep any louvre blades dust free and clean filters regularly.

Home heating safety

Heaters can be dangerous if they are not used safely. Following a few simple heating safety tips can keep your home and the people in it safe.

- Don't leave heaters unattended as they can cause fires. Keep flammable materials at least one metre away from heaters.
- Never plug a heater into a power board, double adaptor or extension cord with other appliances, as these may overload and cause a fire.
- Regularly service and maintain your heater according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Check that your heater's power cord and plug are in a good condition before using it.



Carbon monoxide safety

Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless and tasteless poisonous gas. It is produced when gas doesn't burn properly and is very hard to detect, so it is often called the silent killer.

If you are using a gas room heater, always check with a licensed gas fitter that the room has adequate ventilation to avoid the production and build up of carbon monoxide or other dangerous combustion gases.

It is important that you always have gas heaters installed and regularly serviced by a licensed gas fitter. Be sure to get a certificate of compliance for any installation work.

Never use outdoor gas heaters inside, including camping heaters, as they release dangerous combustion gases and are a high fire risk.

LPG cylinders should not be used inside. Where LPG appliances are used, the gas cylinder should be located outside with the gas supply piped inside by a licensed gas fitter.

Contact the Energy Advisory Service for free energy saving advice

Online: sa.gov.au/energy

Email: energyadvice@sa.gov.au

Phone: 8204 1888 or 1800 671 907 (free call from fixed lines)



**Government of
South Australia**