7 tips for a cooler home

Merri-bek City Council

It's going to be HOT this summer

Here are 7 tips to make your home cooler and save on your energy bills. Some tips are easy and low-cost. Other are more expensive and will be a long-term investment.

☑ Stick these tips on your fridge at home to refer back to.

Create a cool room

Focus on keeping 1 room cool to save money

- ☐ Find the coolest room in your home
- ☐ Close windows and doors to other rooms
- ☐ If your home is open plan, block off unused areas with curtains, or blankets
- ☐ Use fans and air-conditioning to cool the room
- ☐ Set your air-conditioner to 26 to reduce energy use
- ☐ Turn your air-conditioner on early. It will need to work harder if the house is already hot.

Seal any gaps

Stop hot air getting in your home through gaps

- ☐ Check for gaps around windows, doors and between floorboards
- ☐ Use draught stoppers to seal gaps. You can make draught stoppers at home using old socks and stockings, or simply roll up a towel or bedding.

Get to know your neighbours

It's important to be able to get help or help others during a heat wave.

- ☐ Make sure you know someone close by you can call on for help, or who you can help.
- ☐ Swap phone numbers to call in case of an emergency.

Water your garden

Trees and plants provide shade and help cool the air around your home.

- [ ] Watering your garden before the heatwave is best
- [ ] Water in the early morning or evening
- [ ] Mulch around plants to prevent the soil drying out
- [ ] Be mindful of water restrictions.

Use the microwave

Your microwave uses less energy to cook, defrost and re-heat than a standard oven.

- [ ] Microwaves direct most of their energy into the food, rather than the kitchen. That means you'll stay more comfortable and use less energy whilst removing cooking heat from your home.

Cover your windows

Protect windows from sun inside and out.

- [ ] Outside: Install shade cloth or place plants to block the sun
- [ ] Inside: Choose thick curtains in pale colours to help reflect heat
- [ ] Avoid dark colours and metal venetian blinds as they absorb heat.

Reduce power costs

If you're worried about the cost of using your air conditioner during heatwaves, solar can help.

- [ ] There are many Government incentives to improve the energy efficiency of your home.
- [ ] Talk to your landlord. If you rent your home and need bigger changes to ensure it stays cool in summer talk to your landlord about the State Government rebates.

Merri-bek City Council can help.

- zerocarbonmerri-bek.org.au/energy-switch/