

DIY TOP TIP

Energy-saving light bulbs

Inefficient light bulbs are continuing to be phased out across the EU – helping people save money and the environment.

Traditional incandescent, and the least efficient halogen light bulbs, are being taken off the market in favour of energy efficient alternatives.

In this edition of DIY Top Tip, find out why energy-saving light bulbs are taking over, how much you can save, and the benefits this is having for the environment.

Saving energy and money

Replacing just one traditional bulb with an energy-saving light bulb can save you on average £3 a year – and by swapping all your inefficient bulbs in your home you could save around £55 a year. The majority of the 650 million light bulbs in UK homes are inefficient, filament bulbs. Replacing these inefficient bulbs can make a real difference to our national energy consumption.

What's happening in Europe?

Just like here in the UK, the European Commission is phasing out inefficient light bulbs. All traditional filament bulbs have been banned within the EU. In 2016, all bulbs will have to have a B classification or above. There are three types of classes, A, B and C. With B classification there is an infrared coating applied to the bulb which improves the energy efficiency by more than 45% compared with the best conventional incandescent bulbs. The B class improved incandescent bulb can last up to 3,000 hours, which is three times longer than conventional incandescent bulbs, and also works with any dimmer.

The government, energy companies and retail outlets are working together to phase out inefficient light bulbs. So, why not do your bit to help prevent climate change and save money at the same time by putting in energy saving light bulbs throughout your home.

Tenants' Tips

ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

We are launching a new feature called **Tenants' Tips**, brought to you by **Adrian Ingram and Hasina Zuberi**, two residents who sit on the **Readers Panel**. Starting with this issue of **Home News**, they will bring you tips you may find useful for your household.

ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

Adrian and Hasina say:

Use double-sided draft excluders. These can be easily fitted to your internal doors (they slide under the door with the excluder (insulation) either side of the door). They keep heat in and draughts out, and are available online at reasonable prices.



Take control of gas and electric bills. Take monthly actual readings and submit them either by phone or online. Don't forget to have your energy account details with you when you do this. This will give you the ability to keep your direct debit costs down to more realistic usage, and helps prevent the energy suppliers from trying to "predict" usage to inflate direct debit payments.

