**A plumber’s advice on how you can save money amidst the energy crisis!**

As of 1st April 2022, you may have noticed an increase in the price that you are paying for your energy.

If you are feeling concerned about the rise in prices there is help available for the older generation.

It’s important that when it comes to using energy that you are not restricting your comfort to save money, we want you to feel comfortable in your own home and confident that you are doing all that you can to keep your costs as low as possible.

**Are you getting the best deal and what to do to check?**

To start off, ensure that you are getting the best deal for your energy usage and not paying above the odds.

Here is an energy factsheet that can give you some helpful tips on the information you will need in order to check your current tariff and how you can go about switching if that is what you would like to do.

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/factsheets/fs82_getting_the_best_energy_deal_fcs.pdf>

Once you are confident that you are getting the best rate for your energy usage, you may want to consider if your home is appropriately insulated, to make sure that you are not wasting any energy especially in the colder months. The places that you will want to ensure our insulated would be your roof and your walls.

**Check what incentives you are entitled to**

As a pensioner, whether you are a homeowner or renting you may be eligible for home improvement grants which includes home insulation such as loft, underfloor or wall insulation under the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme.

If you are 65 years old or over, you could get between £100 and £300 per year to help pay towards your heating bills under the Winter Fuels Payment scheme. You can find more information on the [Winter Fuel Payment](https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment)  website and applications start on 1st August 2022.

Warm Home Discount is a one-off payment to reduce eligible customers’ bills over the winter months. This winter (2022-23), it's rising from £140 to £150.

You get the payment automatically if your electricity supplier is part of the Warm Home Discount scheme and you or your partner receive the Guarantee Credit portion of Pension Credit. One of you must be named on your bill.

Getting a Warm Home Discount doesn't affect your entitlement to a Winter Fuel Payment or Cold Weather Payment.

You can find more information on the Age UK [Warm Home Discount Scheme](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/benefits-entitlements/warm-home-discount/) website page.

Now that you are aware of any grants or schemes that could help you with the financial side and making sure that your home is sufficiently retaining heat through the colder months, let’s talk about what you can do in your day-to-day life to ensure that costs stay low.

**Energy Saving Tips**

* We all love a cup of tea, so ensure that when you are filling up the kettle you are only filling it up enough for what you need and not overfilling it which can help to reduce energy waste as well as changes to how we cook, such as simmering rather than quickly boiling food, using a lid with a saucepan could add up to £65 in savings annually.
* Take advantage of the sunshine as the days are lighter to keep your house warm (keep curtains open in the daytime to maximise direct light entering the house) and then close the curtains or blinds over to retain the heat or keep the room cooler if needed.
* Make sure that you are using energy efficient light bulbs throughout your home.
* Plug electronics into a power plug and turn that off at the plug when not in use – to avoid leaving things in standby. Even though when things are in standby, they use less energy, they do still use some! Turning everything off at the plug ensures that NO electricity is used.
* If you are using a thermostat, turn down the room temperature by a couple of degrees. 19 degrees is about the average here in the UK. Some people do like their homes a bit warmer, but it’s worth noting that, for every degree you turn your thermostat down you will save about £50. If you would like a thermostat installed, get in contact with us.
* Install heavy curtains and make sure you close them at night. This again acts as a barrier to prevent heat loss out of the home.
* Draught proof around your front door (including the letter box) to help prevent cold air rushing into your home during the winter months.
* Ensure that the hot water temperature on your boiler (if you have a regular one) is not turned up too high. It’s unnecessary to have scolding hot water come out of the tap just to had cold water to get your desired temperature. If you are unsure, please get in contact with us.
* Install a new energy saving condensing boiler. If you have an old boiler in your house, it might be time to swap it to a new condensing version. This will recycle the heat in the waste exhaust gases making it run far more efficiently. You can arrange a visit for us to assess your home and we can provide a free quotation with no obligation.
* Be sure to service your boiler yearly so that you can be confident that it is as energy efficient as possible. Schedule your next service with us.
* Ensure that you air your radiators if they feel that they are not heating up fully, check regularly for cold spots on your radiator. We have heating engineers to assist you.
* Another setting to check would be on your radiator, if your radiator has a Thermostatic Radiator value, it will need to be set on the correct number so that you can get the most benefit from it. It also allows you to control the radiators individually depending on the average room temperature and the seasons.

Any questions, feel free to ask us.

* When it comes to drying clothes, switching to a clothes line or an indoor drying rack could be the single biggest saving as tumble-dryers are often the biggest energy-guzzlers at home. Air drying your laundry could save more than £100 a year. It’s a no brainer.
* Upgrading to an efficient showerhead could reduce energy consumption by 5% - saving more than £50 per year if used twice a day. This could also save you money on your water bills.

You may also want to consider what your budget is for the energy usage and if you have any energy draining appliances that you may have in your household. Examples are:

* Tumble Dryers
* Electric Heaters
* Dishwashers
* Old and ill maintained boilers, that are in need of a service

We hope that you found these tips helpful.

**How we can help you**

If you need any assistance with any of the above, are having boiler issues, need your radiators checked or would like a new thermostat installed, get in contact and we will get you booked in as soon as possible.

Also if you have any concerns and would just like some advice from one of our friendly engineers our office can arrange for one of them to give you call

**Contact us**

**Telephone - 0208 367 9969**

**Email –** **office@pettiferplumbing.co.uk**

**Website –** [**https://www.pettiferplumbing.co.uk**](https://www.pettiferplumbing.co.uk)



Age UK Enfield are here to help on lots of levels. We can offer free Benefits check, that can help you to obtain welfare benefits you may not realise you are entitled too, like Attendance Allowance and Pension Credit.

No one should struggle, we can connect you to HEET who may be able to advise on energy efficiency and offers that could affordably replace old boilers if you are eligible. We can help to apply for grants for white goods and furniture or connect you with Food Pantry or to local food banks.

Age UK have lots of resources available to help you stay warm and well this winter. Our

[winter wrapped up](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/information-guides/ageukig27_winter_wrapped_up_inf.pdf) and [keep well this winter](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/health-wellbeing/keep-well-this-winter/) guides explain what you can do to get yourself and your home ready for **winter.**

**You can contact Age UK Enfield on 020 8375 4120**