

How to green the place you rent

Sometimes renters can feel like sustainability's only for people who can install solar panels. Actually, it's for you too.



Head to www.environmentvictoria.org.au for loads of ideas on sustainable renting—everything from how to approach your landlord, to sustainable renting and the law, to cheap DIY solutions. In the meantime, here are our top 10 tips:

1. Get a water efficient showerhead
2. Block your draughts
3. Turn off heaters and shut doors to rooms which aren't being used
4. Do some DIY rain water collecting for the garden
5. Keep your showers short and sweet
6. Use lamps instead of downlights
7. Don't let summer heat pour through your windows
8. Get curtains and pelmets
9. Start composting (even if you don't have a garden)
10. Get the right heater

Turn over to find out more...

www.environmentvictoria.org.au/renters
for heaps more ideas!

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1. **Get a water efficient showerhead**
This can make a huge difference to your water and energy use. The law's ambiguous on if you can do this without your landlord's permission, even though most landlords wouldn't notice or care. You can get someone to change your showerhead for free through the VEET scheme (Google it!).
2. **Block your draughts**
Why have an uncomfortable house? You can buy self adhesive draught seal tape from the hardware store for about \$10 a packet (although you should ask your landlord before installing it), and draught snakes for \$5 (no installing needed!).
3. **Turn off heaters and shut doors to rooms which aren't being used**
If your home is open plan you might be able to hang a blanket to section off unused areas. If you've got relatively new gas central heating you'll be able to 'zone' it from the control panel. On older systems just close a vent or two, but no more or the system won't cope.
4. **Do some DIY rain water collecting for the garden**
How about a bucket under a rust hole in the guttering? Or a big, portable rain barrel from a large hardware store? You might be able to get your landlord's permission to install a downpipe diverter, or you might be able to (gently!) remove the downpipe and put it back when you leave.
5. **Keep your showers short and sweet**
This could save you hundreds of dollars a year! Plus a whole lot of water.
6. **Use lamps instead of downlights**
Downlights can add hundreds of dollars to your power bill every year. Lamps instead is the cheapest, easiest solution.
7. **Don't let summer heat pour through your windows**
Stopping the heat hitting the outside of your windows in the first place can make a big difference to indoor temperatures on hot days. Try shade cloth or bamboo blinds or growing plants.
8. **Get curtains and pelmets**
To keep your winter heat in. If you haven't got pelmets, lie a scarf over the top of your curtain rod.
9. **Start composting (even if you don't have a garden)**
Check out our compost, worm farm and bokashi bin tips online.
10. **Get the right heater**
If you have to use plug in electric heaters, make sure it's the right size for your room and has a fan and thermostat. Check out our online fact sheet for more.

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for tips on how to green your property and get great tenants and great returns.

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