


7 tips for a cooler home

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.



**Easy and
low cost**
\$

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.

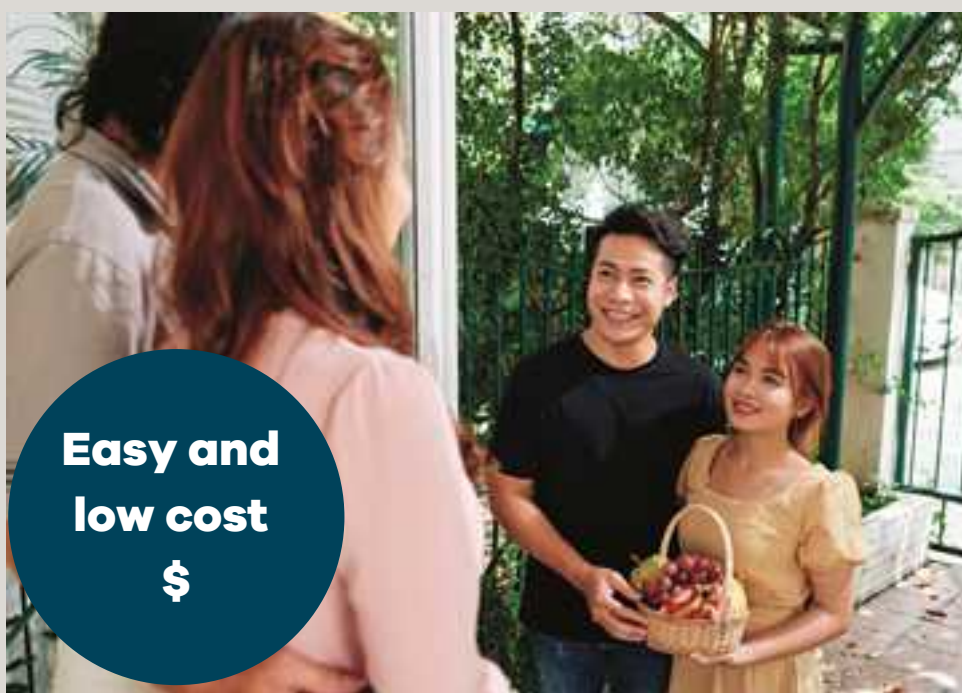


**Easy and
low cost**
\$

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.



**Easy and
low cost**
\$

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.



**Easy and
low cost
\$**

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.



**Easy and
low cost
\$**

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.



**Medium
cost
\$\$**

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.



**Bigger
investment
\$\$\$**

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/