



How to... **maintain your home & save money**

EASTSIDE COMMUNITY TRUST



Maintain your home **and** save money.

Life is busy, and it can be hard to find time for the tasks that keep your home running well. But waiting until things get bad can be expensive, stressful and time-consuming. You could also miss reducing your energy bill.

How will it help?

Regular cleaning, maintenance and some understanding how your home works will help keep it running safely and efficiently. This means lower energy bills and fewer costly repairs. It can also help you avoid issues with damp and mould.



What is energy efficiency?

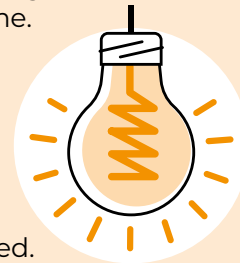
Energy efficiency means doing more with less so you don't waste money and energy.

For example, an energy efficient A-rated washing machine gets your clothes as clean as an inefficient D-rated model, but the A-rated model uses less energy, saving you money on your energy bills.

Improving the energy efficiency of your home will help you reduce your bills without reducing the comfort, warmth and health of your home.

Steps you can take:

- Use energy-efficient appliances and light bulbs.
- Insulate your home to keep heat in.
- Switch things off when not in use.
- Keep things clean and well-maintained.



Get to know your home

To use this guide you will need to know what type of heating system you have – how you heat your rooms and hot water – so you can identify the steps you can take at home. For example:

- Do you have central heating with a combi boiler that heats your rooms and hot water? If so, you can easily change the flow temperature to save a lot of money.
- Central heating with a separate tank for your hot water? A cylinder jacket could make a big difference.

If you aren't sure, Energy Saving Trust has a **useful guide*** on common types of heating systems, plus more in-depth advice.

[*energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/](https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/)



When to do it?

This guide provides general tips to help you get started. The maintenance needed and how often you should do it will depend on the product, how you use it, and your own household's needs.

Always check manufacturer's instructions. If you notice an issue check it right away before the problem gets worse and costs more to fix.

For jobs that only need doing once a year, find time in late summer before it gets cold.

Summer is also a great time to check your heating system. You can make sure everything works well before you really need it, and engineers are usually more available.



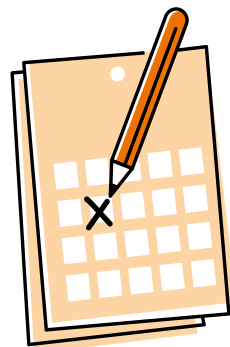
Your guide to staying on top of home maintenance.

- > Jobs to do every 12 months
- > Check regularly: every 2–3 months

* Check manufacturer's instructions for information about your products. Also consider how your routines and where you live will affect it. For example, if your home is dusty or you do lots of cooking, you may need to clean fan filters more regularly.

Heating

- > **Get your heating system serviced by a qualified engineer every 12 months if you can.** This will help you catch issues early and make sure everything is running safely and efficiently. Regular servicing is also needed if it is under warranty.

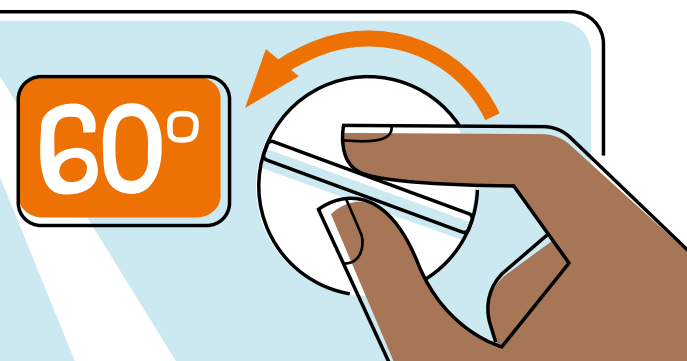


- > **If you have a combi boiler, adjust the flow temperature setting to 60° C.**

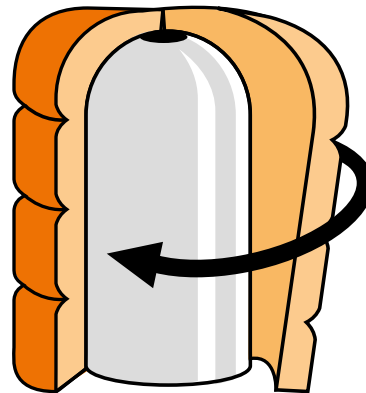
The default temperature is usually much hotter than you need, which is a waste of energy and money. You should only need to change the setting once, but check the temperature after a service in case it's been reset.

Visit the Money Saving Boiler Challenge for more information:

- moneysavingboilerchallenge.com

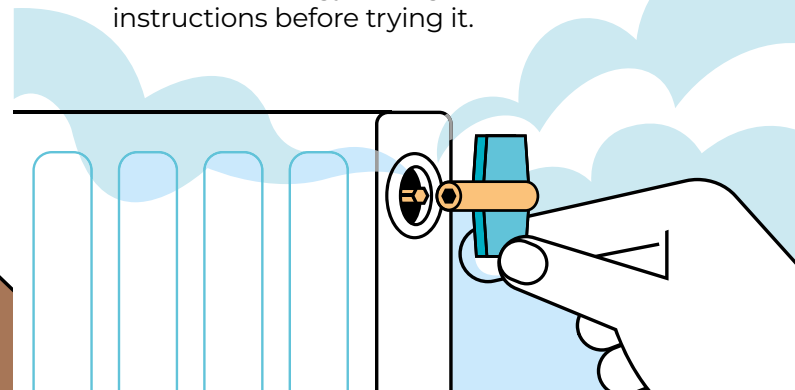


- > **If you have a separate hot water tank or cylinder, insulate it with an 80mm cylinder jacket to keep the heat in. The jacket should be replaced when it shows signs of damp or tears or doesn't fit properly.**



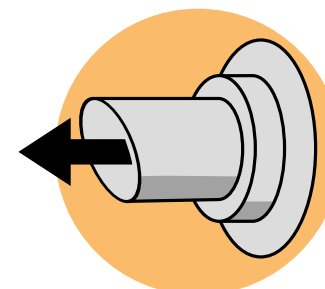
- > **Bleed your radiators** at least once a year or if you notice cold spots at the top or gurgling sounds when they are turned on. Bleeding releases trapped air that makes them less efficient.

Bleeding your radiators is a fairly simple job, but it's important to do it correctly to avoid other issues. Look on the manufacturer's website or Energy Saving Trust for full instructions before trying it.

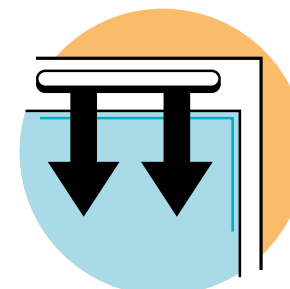


Damp & ventilation

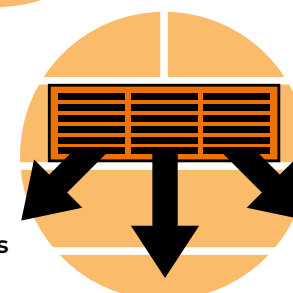
- > Regularly check that boiler flues, air bricks and window trickle vents are clear to allow air flow and avoid issues with damp and mould. Boiler flues should be checked when you get your boiler serviced, but keep an eye out for things like leaves blocking the opening.



Boiler flue

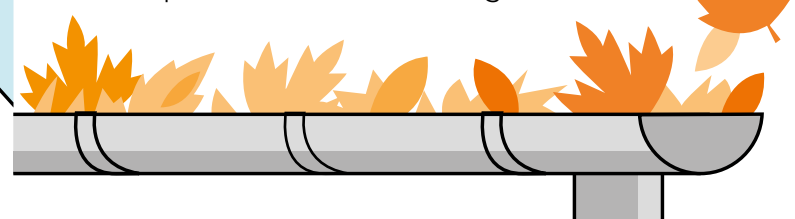


Window trickle vents



Air bricks

- > Clear gutters, fix leaky pipes and fill in gaps and cracks in walls, roofs, windows and doors as soon as you see them. This will help avoid costly issues with damp in your home and can prevent heat from leaking outside.



Appliances

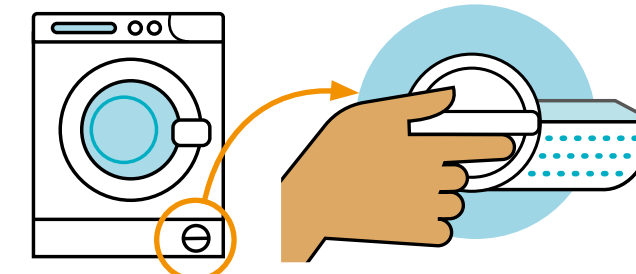
Check the manuals or instructions for your appliances and extractor fans to learn about energy saving settings and how to keep them clean. If you've lost the paper copy you can usually find it online by searching for the make and model.

- > **Clean the filters of kitchen and bathroom extractor fans** or stand-alone dehumidifiers if you have them. This will allow them to remove moist air from your home more quickly and use less energy, saving you money and avoiding issues with damp and mould.

You can often slide the filter out to wipe or vacuum off dust, but each filter will be a little different. Check the appliance manual or ask a trusted handyman if you're not sure.



- > **Washing machine filters** should be checked and cleaned every couple of months. This will make it work efficiently and help avoid expensive repairs from blockages.



To make your washing machine run even more efficiently, wash at 30°C and run a full load when you can. Lower temperatures also help your clothes last longer.

Happy People, Healthy Planet

The Community Climate Action Project is an ambitious citywide programme to demonstrate the important role of communities in achieving Bristol's climate and nature ambitions, whilst also improving people's quality of life.

As part of this project, Eastside Community Trust coproduced a Community Climate Action Plan with residents of Easton and Lawrence Hill to identify actions we can take locally that are good for both people and planet. We then developed the Eastside People Power project to put some of these priorities into action.



Bristol Climate &
Nature Partnership



Eastside People Power

Empowering our community to make sustainable changes in our homes and community buildings.

Eastside People Power is a community demonstrator project set up to tackle the challenge of making our homes and buildings comfortable, healthy and affordable to heat in the face of rising energy costs and colder temperatures.

Drawing on priorities from our Community Climate Action Plan, the project's aim is to develop the skills and knowledge our community needs to make changes in our homes and buildings so they use less energy and cost less to heat.



**Link to all our
mini guides, online
resources and
useful information.**

<https://bit.ly/EastsidePeoplePower>



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