

Media Release



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Simple steps for a safe and energy efficient winter

As the mercury plummets across the State, Essential Energy is advising households to keep electrical safety and efficiency front of mind when heating the home this winter.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said checking the condition of heating appliances before use could help reduce the risk of electrical fires and improve energy consumption.

“Damaged appliances are dangerous and costly to run,” David said. “Before use, conduct a thorough inspection of appliances such as heaters and electric blankets and check for signs of electrical wear and tear.

“Loose plugs, frayed leads or exposed wires are all signs of a damaged or faulty device.”

When purchasing a new heater, read the energy rating label to determine its efficiency and look for an automatic shut-off option as a safety feature.

“Regular servicing of appliances will ensure they operate safely and efficiently and only use a licenced electrician or appliance repairer to fix faulty or broken appliances,” David said.

Simple steps to improving a home’s energy efficiency include using door snakes to reduce cold draughts, installing ceiling and wall insulation, closing curtains and blinds to reduce heat loss, and using heavy rugs for tiled or wooden floors.

In smaller areas like bathrooms, infrared heating options can operate efficiently to keep the room cosy.

“All electrical appliances should be kept at least a metre away from flammable items like clothing, towels or furniture and turned off before leaving a room or going to sleep,” David said.

The optimum winter temperature inside a home is between 18 and 20 degrees and every degree above can increase your energy use.

“This is also a great time to remind people to check the batteries in smoke and fire alarms and ensure units are working properly. Electricity safety should be everyone’s priority for a safe and efficient winter,” David said.

For more energy efficiency advice, visit: essentialenergy.com.au/efficiency

Media contact: Simone Plews, Corporate Media Manager

02 6588 6733 or 0457 514 993

Essential Energy is the operator of one of Australia’s largest electricity networks spanning 95 per cent of New South Wales’ land mass. Owned by the New South Wales Government, Essential Energy also provides water and sewerage services to customers in far western New South Wales.