

For immediate release
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High energy prices making 1 in 4 Aussies go cold

- ➔ One in four (24%) Aussies won't use their heater this winter
- ➔ On average Aussies use their heater for four and a half hours per day
- ➔ [finder.com.au](#) shares tips on reducing your energy bill

10 July 2017, Sydney, Australia – New research from [finder.com.au](#), the site that compares virtually everything, shows some Aussies are choosing to go cold this winter.

The survey of 2,019 people reveals that 24% of respondents -- equivalent to 2.2 million Aussie households -- don't plan on using their heater this season.

While that's a decent number of Australians resisting to turn up the heat, Angus Kidman, editor-in-chief at [finder.com.au](#), questions this wishful thinking.

"Winter is definitely here, and although many have good intentions to cut down their heater usage, the feeling of a warm home is hard to beat," Mr Kidman says.

"The bill shock of your last winter bill is quickly forgotten when a cold snap comes along. With temperatures expected to reach close to freezing during winter, I wouldn't be surprised if more and more Aussies turn to their heaters to keep warm," he says.

The research also finds that on average Aussies use their heater for almost four and a half hours (4.4 hours) per day. If you're using a standard electrical heater, this could potentially add up to \$246 to your household energy bill over winter.

"When it's that cold you're not likely to think about the cost of comfort," Mr Kidman says.

"But with temperatures only getting cooler as we make our way into the heart of winter we could see Aussies heater usage rise or even double, increasing our winter household bills by up to \$450."

Another finder.com.au survey conducted earlier this year finds that Aussies are already struggling to keep up with the cost of energy.

In fact 15% of respondents -- equivalent to 1.4 million Australian households -- often struggle to pay their energy bills.

“This is particularly alarming, as those already bearing the burden of high energy bills may experience further financial strain.”

Tips on reducing your energy bill this winter

Heat the house in isolation

If you want to save money on your energy bills you need to think strategically about how you use your heater. If you're only using one room why would you heat the whole house? Make sure to close the doors to unoccupied rooms and shut all the curtains to keep all the warmth in.

Switch off what's not in use

Although you may not actually be using particular appliances you'd be surprised by how many of them still eat away at your electricity. Things like microwaves, gaming consoles and even TVs still need electricity to remain in standby mode and although they may not be consuming a lot, it can all add up. Switch things off at the wall when they're not in use to avoid unnecessary electricity spend.

Pop on another layer

If you're cold it can be easy to reach for the on button on your heater. Instead grab another jumper and a beanie. This is by far one of the cheapest and easiest ways to warm up and cut down your energy bill.

Shop around for cheaper rates

Don't be afraid to [shop around and compare](#) different electricity and gas plans. Although it can be difficult to figure out if you're getting the best deal possible, as a general rule of thumb if you bundle your electricity and gas together it will end up cheaper.

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Our free service is 100% independently-owned by two Australians Fred Schebesta and Frank Restuccia. Since launching in 2006, we've helped our users make more than 17 million decisions.

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