



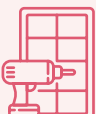


Your Cool Home Action Plan

Empowering Newcastle












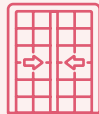



Here are some ways to improve the thermal comfort of your home so you are better prepared for hot days and heat waves.

At the same time, many of these options will reduce your energy bills and emissions, make your home more secure, improve privacy and even help to keep insects at bay.

Category	Action	Impact	Cost	Effort	✓	
Retrofitting your home  	External shading Unshaded glass is often the greatest source of heat entering the home	Install vertical shading , such as external blinds, louvres, or angled slats on east and west facing windows to block direct sunlight. Tracked blinds on a patio can reduce heat and insects.	❄️❄️	\$ - \$\$\$	⊗⊗	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Install horizontal shading on north facing windows, such as eaves, awnings or a pergola.	❄️❄️	\$ - \$\$\$	⊗⊗	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Plant trees, shrubs or climbing vines to shade windows, external walls, paving and other hard surfaces. Plant deciduous species on the north-side to preserve winter sun.	❄️❄️	\$ - \$\$	⊗	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Windows Windows account for up to 40% of heat entering the home 	Fit living and bedroom windows with plantation shutters, honeycomb blinds or heavy curtains and a pelmet. Aim for an R-value 2.5 or above.	❄️❄️	\$ \$	⊗⊗	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Have a professional install window film, which may also improve daytime privacy, reduce glare and fading of indoor furnishings.	❄️	\$ \$	⊗⊗	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Fit select windows and doors with security screens to facilitate cross ventilation and night-time purging of hot air.	❄️	\$ \$	⊗⊗	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Insulation Save up to 45% on your cooling costs 	Check your ceiling insulation for gaps. A 5% gap in coverage can reduce its effectiveness by up to 50%.	❄️	Free or \$	⊗	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Install ceiling insulation (or top up insulation if it is old or less than R5.0).	❄️❄️❄️	\$ \$	⊗⊗	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Draught proofing Sealing the gaps and cracks in your home can make a real difference to your comfort 	Install a draught excluder and/or draught stripping around all external doors.	❄️	\$	⊗	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Find and seal gaps around your home using gap filler and a caulking gun. Important note: if you have internal gas appliances, ventilation is needed in your home for safety reasons.	❄️	\$	⊗	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Apply perimeter seals around your doors and windows. Use v-shaped seals or rubber weather stripping.	❄️	\$	⊗	<input type="checkbox"/>	



We are here to help
Visit **Empowering Newcastle**

Category	Action	Impact	Cost	Effort	✓	
Retrofitting your home cont.  	Light coloured roof Painting your roof white can reduce your air con use by 30% in summer	Hire a painter to paint your roof a light colour (like white or cream) or use a special heat-reflecting paint to make your home cooler and more energy-efficient. This can also make your roof last longer by reducing thermal expansion and contraction.	❄️❄️	💰-💰💰💰	🚫🚫🚫	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Fans Reduce your air con use up to 75% 	Install ceiling fans in main living spaces and bedrooms. They cost about 1 cent an hour to run.	❄️❄️	💰💰	🚫🚫	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appliances  	Portable fans 	Utilise portable fans throughout the home where it is not possible to install ceiling fans.	❄️	💰	🚫	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Air conditioner 	Install a reverse-cycle wall mounted split air conditioner. They are highly efficient, relatively cheap to run, control humidity, and can heat your home in winter too.	❄️❄️❄️	💰💰	🚫	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Clean the filter on your air-conditioner at the start of summer each year, or monthly if you use it most days.	❄️	Free	🚫	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Organise a service for your air conditioner, particularly ducted systems where damage to tubing can waste power and reduce performance.	❄️	💰	🚫	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Set temperature to 23–26°C. Each degree cooler adds about 10% to the running cost of the air conditioner.	❄️❄️	Free	🚫	<input type="checkbox"/>
Behaviour 	Cool retreat 	Create a cool retreat within your home. Focus your efforts on retrofitting a single room or area of your home. Rooms on the south-east, or with a tiled or concrete floor, work best.	❄️❄️❄️	💰💰	🚫🚫	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Daily actions 	Close all external doors, windows, blinds and curtains in the morning. Close the internal doors to the rooms which heat up the most. Ventilate the house at night once the temperature drops.	❄️	Free	🚫	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Extreme heat days 	Have a plan in place for extremely hot days. Consider going to an air-conditioned library, shopping centre, movie theatre, restaurant, public pool or friend's place.	-	Free	🚫	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tree care 	Water the trees near your home in the morning. Trees provide shade, with moisture released from their leaves providing evaporative cooling on hot days. Consider leaving a dish of water under a tree for native wildlife.	❄️	Free	🚫	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional resources 	Home Energy Assessment	Organise a home energy assessment, such as a Residential Efficiency Scorecard assessment, for professional advice and a tailored plan for your home.				<input type="checkbox"/>
	Borrow a Home Energy Kit	Borrow a Home Energy Kit from Newcastle Libraries and use the thermal imaging camera to identify gaps in your insulation as well as gaps in your home that are letting in unwanted heat.				<input type="checkbox"/>
	Get connected	Join the My Efficient Electric Home (MEEH) Facebook group to learn and be inspired by fellow Australians making their homes more energy and thermally efficient.				<input type="checkbox"/>
	Read	Visit the Australian Government YourHome website for detailed information on retrofit options, or borrow the YourHome book from Newcastle Libraries. Download the free Beyond Zero Emissions digital booklet Cooling your home: Home retrofits, appliances and adaptation for a hotter future . Loan a digital copy of 'Renew Magazine: Technology for a Sustainable Future' through Newcastle Libraries Libby app .				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

