

# Winter Warming Tips from the Bord Gáis Energy Home Team

A recent survey by the Bord Gáis Energy Home Team showed that 43% of Irish people believe their homes are not properly insulated. As temperatures fall, what can you do to keep your home as cosy as possible this winter?



One of the best investments you can make is to ensure your home is as energy efficient as possible. Not only will it mean your home is nice and warm, it will also ensure that you use less energy - better for your pocket and for the environment.

Simple things like having your boiler serviced regularly, replacing an old inefficient boiler, powerflushing your radiators to ensure they are operating at the highest efficiency levels and fitting heating controls can make a big difference to your home's energy costs, as will insulating your cavity walls or attic.

To see how you can winter proof your home and save on your energy bills, call the The Bord Gáis Energy Home Team on 1850 427 437 or see more at [www.bordgaisenergy.ie/hometeam](http://www.bordgaisenergy.ie/hometeam). Their reliable and highly qualified Home Energy Consultants will visit your home and carry out a free consultation.



They will talk you through your eligibility for the SEAI (Sustainable Energy Association of Ireland) grants and if you qualify, will manage the grant process on your behalf. Their Better Home Bonus package also offers interest free payments up to two years allowing you to budget your upgrade efficiently.



## A Bord Gáis Energy customer experience

**Bord Gáis Energy customer Frank Lynch from Douglas, Cork talks about his experience with the Bord Gáis Energy HomeTeam.**

I have been a Bord Gáis Energy customer for the last 8 or 9 years and have been living at my current residence since around 1987.

I decided to get a building energy rating done as my grandson, who is one, started to stay over at our house. While my wife and I don't feel the cold, we were conscious that our home could have a more efficient heating system and be cosier. We knew we needed to look at our home energy efficiency standard as our boiler was 12 years old and needed replacing as did all our radiators and controls.

It was a very easy and straight forward process once we made the initial contact with Bord Gáis Energy. We first contacted the Home Team back in February of this year and decided we would like the work carried out in the summer time in preparation for another cold winter.

The team came in and did a fantastic job. Our old piping system was very complicated and the job included pulling up carpets and floorboards and moving around furniture. The team replaced everything to the highest standard and we were really satisfied with the clean up job.

We were eligible for the SEAI grant and Bord Gáis Energy sorted all the necessary details in order for us to qualify. The grant figure was deducted from our bill so we could see the direct benefit without any hassle.

We can already feel the difference and the house is definitely cosier which is fantastic for our young grandson. We have constant hot water and are looking forward to really putting the new systems to the test this winter.

In the meantime, in preparation for the cold snap, the Bord Gáis Energy Home Team have put together the following quick ten simple steps to help keep the cold at bay.

1. Close your curtains and prevent them overhanging your radiators as this channels heat towards the window.
2. Have your radiators power flushed to eliminate lime scale and debris to ensure maximum efficiency.
3. Your natural gas boiler is key to an efficient heating system and should be looked after by having it serviced annually.
4. If you are going away or leaving your home unattended for a period of time, keep your boiler running for 2-3 hours periodically during the day by setting your time clock or leave the heating on a low temperature setting. This will help to avoid freezing pipes when the temperature drops.
5. Seal any drafts in your home before the temperatures outside drop. Ensure your attic door is draft-free and if necessary fit some draft excluder. Also fit draft excluders to external doors and your letter box.
6. Think both clever and stylish interior design! Carpets or rugs help to insulate floors.
7. To save on unnecessary energy consumption, use a portable space heater when only one room needs to be kept warm. Alternatively install heating controls and/or thermostatic radiator valves to control the temperature in each room independently.
8. Where radiators are on external walls fit reflective foil-backed insulation behind them to reflect heat into the room.
9. Update the lagging jacket on your hot water cylinder and it will pay for itself within 2 - 3 months
10. Lag pipes in unheated areas of your home such as your attic.



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