



# Energy Saving Tips Using Your Curtains

## **Draw your curtains at dusk**

Curtains are excellent insulators and drawing them early in the evening can prevent heat loss through windows.

## **Open your curtains in south facing windows during the day.**

The sun can warm your room up by 2-3°C on a sunny day – even in winter.

## **Use curtains across doors to stop draughts and around the stairwell.**

Curtaining the stairwell stops the loss of heat to the upper floors and the falling of cold air from the often unheated upstairs areas descending to the ground floor. But beware that you do not create a tripping hazard. *Don't draught proof internal doors of rooms which house gas or solid fuel-burning appliances and do not block air bricks -inadequate ventilation can cause serious health issues*

## **Use decorative quilts, curtains or tapestries as wall hangings.**

The use of curtains and tapestries has been well known for many centuries. They warm up more quickly than masonry walls so making the room feel more comfortable in a shorter time. They also add a layer of insulation which reduces heat loss through the walls. The air in a room lined with curtains can be heated by 2-3°C less than an unlined room and still feel as warm.

## **DO NOT tuck your curtains behind your radiators.**

***Allow plenty of space for air to circulate freely around radiators.***

With most modern radiators, at least half of the heat output is from behind the front panel. If you tuck in curtains behind the radiator, you will restrict the free flow of warm air. In some cases, tucked-in curtains will completely block this passage of warm air, and substantially reduce the heat output. Therefore, the best advice is not to do anything that restricts the free flow of air around the radiators, or you will reduce heat output. This also applies to space under and in front of the radiators, where there should be a minimum of 4 inches clear.

If your curtains drape below the top of the radiator, you should consider adjusting their length or buying shorter ones. If you are not prepared to do this, consider tucking the curtains onto the window sill when it gets dark.

If the tops of your radiators are very close to the underside of the window sills, ensure your curtains are as short as possible. When drawing curtains at dusk, tuck them onto the window sill. If you're not prepared to do this, it may be better to hang them loose and in front of the radiator, rather than tucking them behind, as this can cause less of a restriction to the free passage of warm air. However, if you have a pelmet above your curtains, then leaving them loose and in front of the radiator is not advised.