

## 10 Tips to Survive Load Shedding and Save Electricity

Here are ten things you could do to reduce the impact of load shedding on your household as well as use less electricity. They are listed roughly in order of cost/benefit (the most benefit to you at the least cost listed first).

	Benefits	Capital Cost Low = less than R1000 Medium = R1000 – R5999 High = R6000 or more
Take a shower instead of a bath.	<a href="#">Showering uses less hot water</a> which reduces your water heating bill.	Zero
Set your geyser thermostat to a lower temperature.	Reducing it from 70 C to 60 C can reduce your water heating costs by 14%. (Please note that the temperature should not be set below 55 C to avoid conditions conducive to bacterial growth and diseases such as Legionnaires' disease).	Zero
Set your pool pump to run for a shorter period each day	Pool pumps consume a lot of electricity. A 10% reduction in the time they run per day, will translate directly into a corresponding saving. Also set it to run at non peak times of the day (eg. noon and midnight) to reduce the load on Eskom during peak times.	Zero
Install <a href="#">aerated shower nozzles</a>	These devices insert air bubbles into the flow or reduce the size of the water droplets leaving the nozzle. The result is you use up to one third less hot water without it feeling like you are using any less water.	Low
Install a <a href="#">geyser blanket, and insulate hot water pipes.</a>	Hot water in the geyser will stay hot longer, and you will use less electricity heating it up.	Low
Use a <a href="#">battery powered inverter</a> to power low energy lighting.	Don't be left in the dark during load shedding. A standard 105Ah deep cycle battery will power five 11W bulbs for 10 hours.	Medium
Use <a href="#">gas</a> heaters in winter.	Load shedding won't leave you shivering. Almost 30% of your winter electricity bill is used for heating if you use electric heaters.	Medium
Install ceiling <a href="#">insulation.</a>	It will cost less to keep your house warm, and it will warm up quicker.	Medium
Use <a href="#">gas</a> for cooking.	Load shedding won't leave you hungry. Electric stoves take longer to reach temperature and it's more difficult to adjust their heat. Gas heat can be adjusted instantly.	Medium
Install a <a href="#">solar water heater</a> or a <a href="#">heat pump</a> to heat water.	Reduce your water heating bill substantially.	High