

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME –
AND A NEW ENERGY EFFICIENT,
ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY LIFESTYLE



barratthomes.co.uk



BARRATT
HOMES

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW ENERGY EFFICIENT BARRATT HOME

Barratt homes are not only great places to live; they're good for the environment and good for future generations too.

We've gone a long way to make your home more sustainable and energy efficient; here are just some of the things we do:

- ✓ Most of our external cavity walls are built using the latest enhanced-efficiency insulation, incorporating heat-reflecting low-emissive technology to make sure you stay warm inside.
- ✓ Our double-glazed windows are filled with argon gas which reduces heat loss, whilst their low-emissive coating allows beneficial heat from the sun into your home. They insulate against external noise too.
- ✓ Our roofs contain up to 400mm of mineral fibre insulation in the loft which significantly reduces any heat escaping through the ceiling.
- ✓ We pressure test our homes to make sure everything is well sealed so your house stays warm and draught free.

✓ We use the latest, highly efficient SEDBUK A-rated condensing boilers – the highest efficiency rated boilers available. Where we also use low heat-loss water cylinders these ensure your hot water stays hotter for longer.

✓ We use the latest energy and water efficient kitchen appliances that have an A/A+ rating which means they minimise the level of energy and water needed for them to operate.

✓ Where we are able to we use energy efficient light bulbs, which can reduce your electricity consumption to light your home by up to 80% to 90%.*

✓ Our kitchens and bathrooms have fixtures and fittings which could save you around 30 litres of water a day per person.**

Now that you've moved in, there's much that you can do to ensure that you live in a sustainable, energy efficient and environment-friendly way. It doesn't have to be a challenge – small changes can make a big difference. Take a look at the tips set out; they're the smarter way to live more sustainably, help support the environment and save precious energy and money too.

*© Energy Saving Trust 2014; [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk]
**Building Research Establishment Water Efficiency Calculator



HANDY HINTS AND TIPS ON HOW TO LEAD A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND ENERGY EFFICIENT LIFESTYLE IN YOUR NEW HOME



DIAL DOWN HEATING COSTS

Your new Barratt home has been designed to allow outside warmth in and keep it there, so on sunny days why not open curtains to not only let in warmth but also save on lighting costs too? The thermostatic radiator valves allow you to control the temperature of each room individually so that you can set the kitchen temperature lower than the living room, for example. Try not to block radiators with furniture; as it will take longer for the room to get up to the desired temperature and therefore use more energy.

Turning the thermostat down by just 1°C could reduce your central heating bill.[†] You won't notice the difference to the room's temperature but you should to your energy bill.



USE YOUR KITCHEN WISELY

The heart of the home can often be the largest consumer of energy, yet it is also one of the places in which you can reduce energy consumption and costs very easily. One of the best ways to save on energy costs is by making sure that all your appliances have an efficient energy rating. After central heating, fridges and freezers are two of the biggest contributors to your home energy bill accounting for 20% of the energy used in the average UK home.^{††} The appliances we fit have the energy ratings of A or A+ meaning they are highly energy efficient.

Small changes in your lifestyle like washing your clothes at 30° instead of 40° and ensuring the load is full could save on energy by over a third.[‡] Limiting the toaster usage, only boiling the water you need in your kettle, drying your clothes naturally and ensuring the fridge door isn't open for too long will also prevent energy wastage and help you cut your energy bills.



NO MORE MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN

We typically use two thirds of our water in the bathroom and the amount wasted is astonishing. Try to take a shower – it uses 20% less energy[¥] than a hot bath, and cut down the time you spend in the shower by a minute or two, you should notice the difference when your water and energy bills arrive. Even turning off the tap when you brush your teeth could save you around three litres per minute.[^]



TURN DOWN THE POWER

If you're not using your appliances, switch them off completely instead of leaving them on standby – you could save up to £37 a year by doing this.[^] And don't leave mobiles and tablets charging all night, you'll continue to use energy even when the device has finished charging.

Energy saving light bulbs are also a fantastic option when it comes to saving energy. There's now a huge range of styles on the market and technology has improved greatly, so there's very little warm up time.^{^^} So if you need to replace or buy a light bulb, ensure you use energy efficient ones.

[†] Thermostats and controls; ©Energy Saving Trust 2014; <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Heating-and-hot-water/Thermostats-and-controls>

^{††} How to use less electricity; © Which? 2014; <http://www.which.co.uk/energy/saving-money/guides/how-to-use-less-electricity/>

[‡] The truth about your energy costs; June 29th, 2010; <http://www.moneywise.co.uk/cut-your-costs/household-bills/the-truth-about-your-energy-costs>

[¥] 4Homes; Channel 4 © 2014; <http://www.channel4.com/4homes/>

[^] Energy saving tips for your home; Copyright © 2014 Ebico Ltd; <https://www.ebico.org.uk/energy-advice/energy-saving-tips>

^{^^} Energy saving light bulbs; © Energy Saving Trust 2014; <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Electricity/Lighting/Lighting-products/Energy-saving-light-bulbs>





DON'T FORGET THE GARDEN

If you have a garden you can be a little more environmentally friendly here too. We have partnered with the RSPB, the country's largest nature conservation charity to help advise ways in which you can give nature a home in your garden.

■ Grow flowering plants

Plenty of flowers throughout the year help provide nectar, pollen and shelter for bugs, which provide food for birds and other wildlife.

■ Plant a tree or shrub

Trees, shrubs and climbers will eventually become places for wildlife to shelter, breed and feed. With those that produce flowers, fruit or berries, you can't go far wrong. A few wildlife favourites are crab apple, rowan, hawthorn, privet, dog rose, ivy and honeysuckle.

■ Give your mower a rest

If you have a lawn, it can be a great place for wildlife to live – especially if you let it grow. When it is time to cut your lawn, raise the height of your mower blades, this may make it better for bugs which provide vital food for other animals. If you have space, a patch of longer grass over summer and winter might house and shelter all sorts of wildlife such as butterflies, moths and grasshoppers.

■ Make dead wood piles

Dead and rotting wood provides a home where fungi, mosses and lichens can grow. As it decays, a pile of wood becomes a bug hotel for a variety of bugs. So whenever you prune add the cut branches to the pile.

■ Create a pond

Adding a pond to your garden is one of the best ways to give nature a home. Even a small pond could attract dragonflies, frogs, pond skaters and newts, as well as giving wildlife a place to drink and bathe.

■ Feed garden birds

Put out a variety of food all year and you'll give the birds in your garden a boost, helping them survive hard times. Ideal foods are: sunflower hearts, seed mixes, suet pellets, porridge oats and apples. Birds need water too, so leave fresh water in a shallow dish; you could help them further by installing a bird box in your garden to encourage them to nest.

■ Build a wildlife shelter

To a bird, bat or hedgehog looking for a place to raise its young, an artificial home can be a valuable alternative to a natural shelter. Whether you build or buy a wildlife box you can put them out at any time of the year.

■ Help support British honeybees

We're working with the British Beekeepers Association to help support the British honeybee. You can help too, by planting bee-friendly plants such as lavender, roses, clematis and geraniums to name a few.



BE GREEN WHEN YOU GARDEN

Get the most from your garden and help wildlife at the same time. Here's how:

- Avoid using peat – often the peat you find in garden centres has been taken from some of Europe's most valuable places for wildlife.
- Avoid pesticides – to avoid harming plants or animals consider using a natural method to deal with any insect pest.
- Get a water butt – captured rainwater is much better for watering your garden and topping up your pond than tap water. Plus it will help reduce your water consumption whilst saving you money if you have a water meter.‡

ENERGY EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING

At Barratt Homes, not only do we aim to create tomorrow's communities whilst respecting today's delicate environment; we also want to encourage our home owners to enjoy living in our homes in a sustainable, energy efficient and environmentally friendly way.

This guide can help you achieve this. But we don't want you to keep all this knowledge to yourself; we want you to encourage others to do the same. Living a more energy efficient and sustainable lifestyle is better for you, the local environment and the planet as a whole.

‡ Money; © AOL (UK) Limited its affiliates and licensors; www.money.aol.co.uk/2012/12/05/10-weird-ways-to-save-money-on-your-household-bills

