

Top ways to save money in the home this Autumn

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The winter months may mean cosy nights spent curled up on the couch with kids and a cup of hot chocolate, but it also means long hot showers, lots of oven-cooked casseroles and of course, excessive use of home heating.

Combined, all of these things can lead to staggering energy bills that can be tough on your wallet. But what's a mum to do?

Well, the gang at MummyPages have teamed up with Bord Gáis Energy to come up with some ways you can save money this winter, so you have more cash to spend on keeping your family toasty.

The home heating providers are launching their fab new product, which allows Mum and Dad to keep control of the energy they use, with the potential to save up to €120 each year on heating bills.

Hive lets you control your home heating and hot water from your smartphone, tablet or laptop, allowing you to keep an eye on things from wherever you are. This award-winning technology means you'll never have to heat an empty home or come back to a cold one.

Here are 10 simple ways you can slash your outgoings, balance your heating bill and even rack up a few extra euros for Christmas.

1. Ditch the car

You don't have to give it up completely because let's face it, days out with the whole family are a lot easier when you can pile everyone into the car. However, now is the time to be honest – do both you and your hubby need a car each? Could you both make it work relatively easy each day by taking a bus or tram? Not only do you save money on tax, insurance and petrol, you'll also be helping the environment. Plus a little extra walking is a good thing.

2. Take charge of your heating

Rather than trying to guess times or leaving you heating on all day just so your home is warm in the evening, signing up to Hive allows you turn the heating on from wherever you are when you actually need it. The Geolocation feature can also remind you to switch your heating on or off when you're coming or leaving home.

3. Cut back on takeaways

The cost of ordering out for food every Friday or Saturday night really adds up, especially when you're feeding the whole family. Cut it down to once a month and instead prepare a meal in advance when you have time and freeze it until takeaway night. That way you don't have to cook that evening and everyone gets a nutritious meal that doesn't cost the earth.

4. Listen to your Mammy and mind the immersion

Hive allows you to control your water heating remotely from your smartphone or tablet. No more panicking if you forget to turn off the immersion before leaving the house or leaving the heating on all day so you can have a shower when you come home.

5. Lower the thermostat

If you lower it by just a degree or two, you won't notice a change in the water temperature but you will notice it in your pocket. Just another thing you can do remotely with Hive...



6. Unplug all electronic devices

It won't save a huge amount of money, but every little helps when you're trying to budget.

7. Stop playing the Lotto

Yes, we've all fantasized about what we would do if we won the Lotto, but the reality of that happening is pretty slim. €5 is the typical amount for each Irish Lotto draw, which adds up to a whopping €520 during just one year.

8. No more bottled water

We're all for keeping hydrated, but at over €1 per bottle, buying one a day really adds up over the year. Instead buy a reusable drink bottle and stop paying for water every time you go out.

9. Batch cooking

We've said it before and frankly, we're never going to stop saying it: batch cooking is a mum's best friend. Cooking in bulk at the weekend and freezing meals for the rest of the week not only saves you time and energy, it also saves you money through bulk-buying offers and cuts down on food waste.

10. Cash in on your hoarding

This is more of a 'making money' than a 'saving money' tip, but when you have kids, it's something you can do every year. Gather together old clothes and toys, as well as any other household items you don't use and put them up for sale online. The money you make can go towards the increased winter bills and stop you dipping into the Christmas pot.

More about Hive

Hive works with your existing central heating system, so there's no need to change your energy supplier. Signing up couldn't be easier:

- Call Bord Gais on 1850 427 141 to buy and select your installation date.
- Bord Gais will then email you your Hive account login details.
- A Bord Gais Energy Service Engineer will arrive at the arranged time to install your Hive kit.

€299 includes Hive & professional installation, while €349 including Hive, professional installation and a boiler service. For more information about Hive, visit Bord Gáis Energy's website.

* Saving is based on annual gas usage of 13,800kWh at the BGE standard rate on 02.06.15 when entry-level remote heating controls are installed as per SEAI Energy Savings. Savings are dependent on customer behaviour change in their usage.

