Managing your home energy use efficiently can be hard work. We’ve busted a few common myths and come up with some useful tips to help you get on track to save both energy and money.

**Myth 1**  
Switching off an appliance prevents it from using electricity.  
**Busted!**  
Most appliances continue to draw energy even when they are not in use. Once you’ve finished using an appliance make sure that you switch it off at the wall and pull out the plug.

**Myth 2**  
Using electricity at night is cheaper.  
**Busted!**  
If your appliances are wired to the General Supply Tariff it is the same flat rate day and night. Connect to an economy tariff for cheaper evening rates.

**Myth 3**  
Leaving computers, lights and other appliances switched on uses less energy than switching it off and back on again.  
**Busted!**  
The amount of energy used when switching a device on is very small in comparison to the energy used to keep an appliance running when it’s not needed. As a general rule switch off a device whenever you aren’t using it.

**Myth 4**  
You can’t insulate an old home - it’s not cost-effective.  
**Busted!**  
Insulating your property will prevent you from having to rely on heaters and air conditioners as much and will therefore result in cheaper energy bills.

**Myth 5**  
New homes are more efficient.  
**Busted!**  
This is not necessarily true. The energy efficiency of your home has to do with how, and not when, it was built and designed.

To prevent issues like this a fridge that isn’t properly sealed may seem like it’s working but will be working a lot harder to keep the temperature cooler — therefore doubling or even tripling your bills.

By using your energy-efficient appliances correctly you may be cancelling out the savings made from opting for a product with a high star rating.

It is also important to consider where your appliances are positioned. A fridge positioned in direct sunlight or close to heat sources such as ovens and dishwashers will use significantly more energy in order to keep cool.

Visit ergon.com.au/homeenergytips today to better understand your energy use and put the power back in your hands.