

Energy Efficiency Fact Sheet: Automotive

Automotive businesses such as service stations, smash repairers and vehicle service centres use energy mainly for lighting, tools, fuel pumping, air compressors and refrigeration systems. Energy reductions are possible in all of these areas and in some cases significantly so. For example, compressed air systems typically account for only 10% of total energy consumption but up to 30% of total energy wastage.

Quick and easy things to do

- 💡 **Purchase energy efficient power tools and appliances.** Look for energy star ratings when purchasing new equipment. Where possible choose appliances with low energy settings.
- 💡 **Ensure regular maintenance of compressed air systems.** Check for leaks in pipes, connectors and joints. A simple method is to apply soapy water to suspect areas and watch for bubbles. Keep filters clean of dirt, oil and other contaminants. Replace damaged filters immediately.
- 💡 **Use lighting effectively.** Canopy lighting can use large amounts of energy. If possible, locate bright lights only where needed such as over fuel pumps and at tyre pumps. In workshops, use a separate lamp for detailed work rather than lighting the whole area. Switch off work lights when not in use.
- 💡 **Keep light fixtures clean.** Allowing dust and grease to build up in lighting fixtures will reduce their overall light output and shorten lamp life. Instigate a regular cleaning regime for lamp fixtures and fittings.
- 💡 **Turn off equipment when not in use.** Most equipment does not need to be running overnight. Install timers to switch off equipment such as air compressors and non-perishable drinks fridges after hours.
- 💡 **Maintain the spray booth.** Changing spray booth filters regularly will increase efficiency of exhaust fans and reduce energy consumption. Maintain spray booth insulation and use energy efficient lighting.
- 💡 **Control air flow rate to spray booth.** Reduce the air flow rate inside the spray booth when the painter is not spraying. If possible, also reduce the flow rate of heated air that leaves the booth.

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Energy Savers



Purchase energy efficient appliances



Clean vs dirty filters



Task-specific lighting



Drinks fridge timer



Spray booth variable speed exhaust fan



Australian Government
Department of Resources,
Energy and Tourism

Great ideas for longer term savings

- 💡 **Upgrade to an energy efficient air compressor.** When purchasing a new air compressor choose the right size for the intended purpose. It should run as closely to a full load as possible. If possible duct air from outside to the compressor, cool air is used more efficiently than warm air.
- 💡 **Install air compressor variable speed drives.** Variable speed drives can increase the running efficiency of the air compressor. Up to 50% energy savings are possible when running hours are long.
- 💡 **Optimise natural lighting in workshops.** Consider installing sky lights and light tubes and replacing roofing panels with translucent panels. If panels are preferred and overheating is a concern choose those which reflect heat while allowing visible light to penetrate, or opt for semi opaque white or cream panels. Paint walls and ceilings in light colours wherever possible to increase reflected light.
- 💡 **Replace lighting with energy efficient alternatives.** Consider energy efficient lighting upgrades such as replacing T8 fluorescent tubes with T5 converters and mercury vapour hi-bays with LED's. If feasible install lighting controls such as daylight or occupancy sensors and timers.
- 💡 **Install roller shutters on display fridges.** Roller shutters slide down to cover the open area of a display fridge. Install these if fridges cannot be switched off overnight.
- 💡 **Install insulated covers on fridges and freezers.** Insulated covers can be tailor made to fit existing appliances.
- 💡 **Have an energy audit done.** An energy audit will determine how to use energy efficiency to increase profitability in your business. Register for a free energy audit at 3eproject.org.au.

Did you know?

- 💡 Fixing compressor air leaks can save up to 40% of their energy cost.
- 💡 Installing reflectors behind fluorescent tubes increases illumination by up to 50%.

For further information contact the 3E Project Team on 1800 242 845 or by email at info@3eproject.org.au

Energy Savers



Variable speed drive
compressor



Translucent
roofing panels



T5 Fluorescent
lamps



Insulated
freezer cover

