



Tips for Saving on Your Appliance Energy Use

Appliances account for about 13% of your household's energy costs, with refrigeration, cooking, and laundry at the top of the list.

Refrigerator

- Check the gasket around the door for gaps and improper fit. The door should close firmly against the gasket. Check for tightness by placing a dollar bill between the gasket and the door. Close the door and then pull out the dollar: there should be a slight drag when you pull it out. If there isn't, the gasket should be replaced.
- Let food cool before putting it in the refrigerator so the refrigerator does not use energy unnecessarily.
- Clean the coils located on the back or bottom of the refrigerator twice a year, more often if you have pets. Most refrigerators will easily slide away from the wall for cleaning. Unplug the refrigerator before cleaning the coils. Use a vacuum cleaner or a soft brush. See the refrigerator owner's manual for further information.
- Try to keep the door open no longer than necessary. Be sure to close the door when you're through.
- When purchasing a new refrigerator, purchase a model with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Kitchen Stove

- When boiling water, cover the pot. It will use less energy and take less time.
- Use pots and pans that fit the burners. Pans that fit a burner absorb more of the energy, reducing the amount of heat that is lost. Keep oven and burners clean. A clean oven uses energy more efficiently.
- Use the broiler when possible. The broiler uses less energy, and preheating is not required.
- Use a microwave oven instead of the conventional oven whenever you can.
- Don't peek. Every time you open the oven door to look at the food, the oven temperature is lowered by 25° to 75°. Use a timer if your oven door does not have a window.
- Don't preheat the oven if the food requires more than one hour of cooking time.

Washing Machine and Dryer

- Use hot water only for very dirty clothes. Most clothes can be washed in either warm or cold water. Refer to the washing instructions on the clothing labels or washing machine.
- Doing full loads of laundry in the washer saves both energy and water. Sort and organize your laundry so that you will be doing full loads. Many washing machines have settings for smaller loads.
- Be careful not to overload the washer. Your clothes may not get fully clean and may need to be washed again. This is a waste of energy, water, and time.
- Operate the dryer like the washer: don't overload it. Overloading uses excess energy because the items take longer to dry. Be sure to clean the lint from the dryer's filter after every load. The efficiency of the dryer goes down when lint collects over the dryer filter.
- Group similar types of fabrics together before drying them. For example, put towels together in one load. A lower dryer temperature may be used for certain clothes. See the owner's manual from the dryer for more information.
- Consider purchasing an ENERGY STAR rated clothes washer.



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Dishwasher

- Run the dishwasher only when it's fully loaded. If necessary, scrape dirty dishes and store them in the dishwasher until you have a full load.
- Be sure to load the dishes in their proper locations. See the dishwasher owner's manual for instructions on proper loading.
- Scrape dirty dishes with cold rather than hot water.
- Check and clean the dishwasher drain as necessary. Solid pieces of food waste can build up over the dishwasher drain.
- Check the owner's manual to learn about special energy-saving features that your dishwasher may have. Use these features whenever possible to save money. Many dishwashers have energy-saving settings, such as a setting for partial loads or energy-efficient drying cycles.
- If you are purchasing a new dishwasher, purchase a model with the ENERGY STAR .

Hot Water

- If you leave for vacation, turn the water heater down or off. If you have an electric hot water heater, you can turn it off at the circuit breaker.
- For most uses, a temperature of 115° is sufficient, but your dishwasher may require a higher temperature. Check the owner's manual for the required temperature. If your dishwasher has a built-in water heater, use it to increase the temperature to the recommended level, instead of your electric water heater.
- Check your hot water tank owner's manual for the manufacturer's recommendation about insulating the hot water tank. Some manufacturers do not recommend adding insulation around the tank. Newer high efficiency models do not need to be wrapped.
- If your hot water heater is housed in a closet and the door has louvers or grills, do not cover or set anything in front of them.