

Saving energy with appliances

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- Appliances that use electricity when you think they are off

Choosing appliances

Appliances use about a third of the average home's electricity bill. This amount is growing as we continue to buy more appliances, and use them for more hours every day.

When you need to replace your old appliances, it is worth selecting a more efficient model to save on your appliance electricity bill. As well as the upfront price, it is worth considering the ongoing running costs.

Energy rating labels give you information on how much energy a product uses. They make it easy for you to compare the energy efficiency of similar appliance models. Every new whiteware appliance and heat pump sold in New Zealand displays this label.

Energy rating labels all have a simple star rating. The more stars on the label, the more energy efficient the appliance is compared to similar models.



Appliances that use electricity when you think they are off

This is called standby electricity. Most appliances that you can switch off with a remote control keep using electricity, slowly but steadily, often without you realising. If your appliances' lights and clocks are on, they're using electricity.

Home entertainment products account for around half of standby electricity use in the home. These include:

- Televisions
- Audio equipment
- DVD players
- Games consoles
- Set-top boxes

Other products that could be wasting electricity in standby mode could include:

- Computers
- Home office equipment
- Microwaves
- Washing machines
- Dishwashers

Turning off appliances at the wall when you're not using them will make a noticeable saving to your energy bill over a year. The average household could save around 4% on their electricity bill if appliances on standby were switched off.

Household stand-by energy costs the country over \$100 million a year - which is enough to power over 55,000 homes.

For more information:

- See Fact sheets on
 - Using less energy
 - Visit the Energywise website for information about energy rating labels and calculating running costs for appliances: www.energywise.govt.nz/how-to-be-energy-efficient/appliances
 - Read more on the Smart Homes website: www.smarterhomes.org.nz/energy/appliances/choosing-the-right-appliance/#c78.
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