



**78°**  
SET IT FOR  
SUMMER

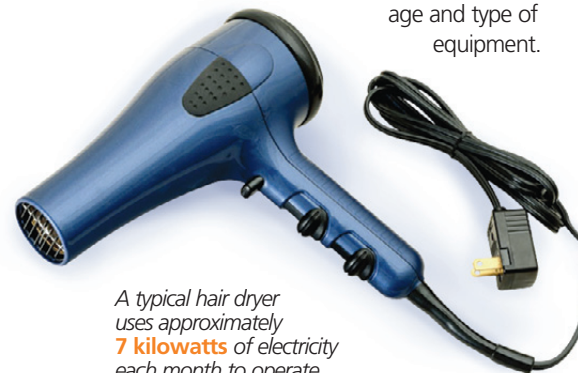
Save money!  
Save energy!  
Tips inside!



# Appliance use

In the chart on the right, you'll find average monthly kWh use amounts for a variety of appliances and equipment.

Your actual use will depend on your individual usage habits and age and type of equipment.



A typical hair dryer uses approximately **7 kilowatts** of electricity each month to operate.

Appliances	kWh used per month
Central air unit (2.5 tons)	<b>848*</b>
Water heater (electric)	<b>290</b>
Interior lighting	<b>219</b>
Electric range	<b>104</b>
Clothes dryer	<b>87</b>
Freezer (auto defrost)	<b>82.5</b>
Refrigerator-freezer (auto defrost)	<b>67</b>
Standard TV	<b>15</b>
Standard large screen TV	<b>26</b>
High-definition large screen TV	<b>38</b>
Stereo equipment	<b>25</b>
Computer	<b>8.3</b>
Clothes washer	<b>8</b>
Microwave oven	<b>7.1</b>
Hair dryer	<b>7</b>
Coffee maker	<b>7</b>
DVD/VCR	<b>5</b>
Vacuum cleaner	<b>4</b>

\* Average usage May-October. The kWh figures are estimates based on a family of three living in a 1,500 sq. ft. home.

## Warm Weather

- For maximum efficiency, set your thermostat at 78° or higher if comfort allows.
- Raise your thermostat 4° or more when you leave your home for several hours or more. And simply return it to its normal setting when you return. Drastically lowering the thermostat will not cool your home faster, it will only make your system work harder and run longer.
- Use fans to move the air. This will make you feel cooler and allow you to raise the setting on your thermostat.
- Don't run heat-producing appliances during the hottest part of the day.
- If you have drapes or shades, close them during the day to keep out the heat and open them at night to let the heat escape through the glass. Solar shades or screens are a cost-effective method to reduce the heat from sunlight coming in through your windows.
- Plant trees or shrubs to shade air conditioning units but don't block the airflow. A unit operating in the shade uses as much as 10 percent less electricity than the same one operating in the sun.
- If possible, locate window AC units on the north or shady side of your home. Direct sunlight falling on the unit will make it work harder.

# ENERGY CONSERVATION GUIDE

You have the **power to save.**



**68°**  
SET IT FOR  
WINTER

## Cold Weather

- For maximum efficiency set your thermostat at 68° or lower if comfort allows.
- Selectively open and close drapes and blinds during the day to maximize heat gain from the sun. Close them at night to keep the warm air inside.

## Adding or replacing appliances

Be sure to look for the Energy Star label when purchasing new appliances. Energy Star labels appear on appliances and home electronics that meet strict energy efficiency criteria established by the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

If you are considering a used appliance, know that older models are less efficient and can end up costing you more due to higher energy use.



## Air conditioners

Air conditioners come with a SEER rating. SEER stands for Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio and the number describes how well air conditioning equipment works. A higher SEER means better efficiency and lower energy bills. Proper matching of your inside and outside equipment is essential to achieving the desired SEER rating. A professional can help you choose the right air conditioning system for your home.

## Reading your meter

You can keep track of your monthly electricity usage by reading your meter. Digitals are easy to read. If you have a meter with dials, read the numbers left to right and write the numbers down the same way. When the pointer is between two numbers always record the smaller number. Subtract last month's reading from this month's to get the number of kilowatt hours used.

Reading: **6,372**



**NOTE:** Your reading will be different from the reading actually used to calculate your bill. Your meter may be read on different days each month, or your bill may include more or fewer days in the billing period.

# Saving

# energy

# every day

## Programmable thermostats

Programmable thermostats can reduce energy use by automatically raising or lowering the temperature in your home when it's vacant. They are inexpensive and easy to install. For each degree you raise or lower your thermostat from the recommended setting for each season, you can save up to 3 percent on your heating or cooling expense.

## Insulation

Proper insulation helps keep your house cool in summer and warm in winter. Experts recommend R-30 (about 9.5 inches) of insulation for our part of the country. Increasing your attic insulation can reduce energy used to heat and cool your home by up to 10 percent.



## Refrigeration

Clean condenser coils at least once a year and replace worn door gaskets to ensure a tight fit for efficient operation.

Don't place refrigerators or freezers in garages, carports and other places that are not air conditioned. This puts strain on the motors and causes them to run continuously.



## Swimming pools

Placing a timer on your pool pump can reduce energy use. Check with a professional to determine the amount of pump time needed for your size and type of pool.

Keep your pool filtration system clean. A dirty system will cause the motor to run longer and at higher back pressures in the pump, consuming more energy.



## Water heating

Set your water heater's thermostat at the lowest temperature that meets your needs. Experts recommend 120°. Wrapping your electric water heater in an insulating blanket will also save energy used to keep the water warm in the tank.



## Lighting

Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFBs) use 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and can last up to 10 times longer. Use CFBs in your most frequently used lights to reduce your lighting costs.



## Use this formula to estimate your appliances' energy use:

$$\text{Wattage} \times \text{Hours Used Per Day} \div 1,000 = \text{Daily Kilowatt-hour (kWh) consumption}$$

(1 kilowatt (kW) = 1,000 Watts)

Multiply this by the number of days you use the appliance during the year for the annual consumption. You can then calculate the annual cost to run an appliance by multiplying the kWh per year by your local utility's rate per kWh consumed.

**Notes:** You can usually find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance or on its nameplate.

To estimate the number of hours a refrigerator actually operates at its maximum wattage, divide the total time the refrigerator is plugged in by three. Refrigerators, although turned "on" all the time, actually cycle on and off as needed to maintain interior temperatures.

## Air leaks

Eliminate air leaks by caulking around windows and doorframes and install weather stripping around exterior doors. Check for air leaks where pipes enter your home from the outside and fill with expanding spray foam. Eliminating air leaks can save you as much as 10 to 20 percent on your heating and cooling costs.



## Filters and lint traps

Change or clean the filters in your home's air returns monthly. This also applies to window AC units. And clean your dryer's lint trap after each load. Clogged filters and lint traps can dramatically affect efficiency of the appliance.

## Fill it up

Run dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers only when loads are full to maximize energy use.

## Trees

Properly positioned trees can save up to 25 percent of a household's energy use for heating and cooling, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. In fact, the correct placement of only three trees will save an average household \$100-\$250 in energy costs in a single year.

