

## How to use those yellow energy guide stickers

Major appliances have yellow tags on them giving you an estimate of annual operating cost. They are required by federal law.



These stickers are valuable when comparing appliances using the same type of energy. The national average price per kilowatt-hour is about 11 cents, so you can use that figure and the tag to estimate operating cost. Often more expensive appliances will cost significantly less to operate, so in the long-run they are less expensive to own.

The stickers are not as useful in comparing different size units or a propane vs. an electric appliance. You must know the actual price of a unit of energy. Also natural gas models of appliances are usually the ones displayed.

## Ways to save energy

- When you leave home for more than three days, turn off your water heater or set to "vacation."
- Buy energy-efficient appliances. The energy savings pay for the difference in purchase price.
- Fix leaking faucets and install low-flow shower heads.
- Do laundry in the lowest water temperature possible. Set your water heater thermostat on 120 degrees.
- Install compact fluorescent bulbs throughout your home.
- Close windows and doors when heating or air conditioning.
- Change or clean your furnace filter once a month.
- Vacuum registers and vents regularly, and don't let furniture and draperies block the air flow. Inexpensive plastic deflectors can direct air under tables and chairs.



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# How Much Does It Cost to Run Appliances?

Some average costs to use common home appliances



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**For service, not profit.**

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*You can figure the cost of operating any home appliance if you know its wattage (or amps) and how long you use it.*

## You can figure cost yourself

Here is the formula and how to apply it:

1. **Watts x hours used = watt hours.**
2. **Divide watt hours by 1,000 to get kilowatt-hours.**

Example: If you use a 100-watt light bulb for 10 hours, you would use 1 kwh. (100 x 10=1,000 watt hours. Divide 1,000 by 1,000 = 1 kwh). You can convert amps to watts by multiplying amps x 120 volts. Therefore, a 6-amp vacuum cleaner draws about 720 watts. If you use the vacuum five hours a month, you would use 3.6 kwh (720 x 5 = 3,600 divided by 1,000 = 3.6 kwh. The cost: about 40 cents.)



Appliance	Typical wattage	Estimated hours use per month	Estimated monthly *kwh	Cost per month at 11 cents/kwh (national avg.)
<b>General:</b>				
Dehumidifier	275	240	66.0	\$7.26
Lighting (100 watt CFL equivalent)	30	60	1.8	\$.20
Lighting (100 watt incandescent)	100	60	6.0	\$.66
Vacuum cleaner	1,000	6	6.0	\$.66
Water pump (deep well)	1,000	15	15.0	\$1.65
<b>Heating/cooling:</b>				
AC (window)	1,200	240	288.0	\$31.68
AC (central air)	1,500	240	360.0	\$2.38
Blanket	150	120	18.0	\$1.98
Heater (portable)	1,500	120	180.0	\$19.80
Heater (oil portable)	1,500	120	180.0	\$19.80
Fan (ceiling)	65	240	15.6	\$1.72
Fan (window)	200	240	48.0	\$5.28
Fan (furnace; varies)	300	300	90.0	\$9.90
Water heater (varies widely)	4,500	90	405.0	\$44.55
<b>Kitchen:</b>				
Blender	300	3	0.9	\$.09
Coffee maker	1,200	30	36.0	\$3.96
Dishwasher	1,200	25	30.0	\$3.30
Freezer (15 cu. ft.)	340	360	122.4	\$13.46
Freezer (chest)	500	360	180.0	\$19.80
Microwave	1,000	10	10.0	\$1.10
Range/oven	12,500	8	100.0	\$11.00
Refrigerator (16 cu. ft. frostless)	725	360	261.0	\$28.71
Toaster	1,400	3	4.2	\$.46
<b>Laundry:</b>				
Washing machine (no hot water)	1,150	12	13.8	\$1.52
Clothes dryer	5,000	18	90.0	\$9.90
Iron	1,000	12	12.0	\$1.32
<b>Bathroom/bedroom:</b>				
Clock radio	10	720	7.2	\$.79
Hair drier	1,200	5	6.0	\$.66
<b>Family room:</b>				
Television (19")	70	180	12.6	\$1.39
Television (projection)	170	180	30.6	\$3.37
Television (50" plasma flat screen)	500	180	90.0	\$9.90
DVD	15	16	0.2	\$.02
VCR	30	16	0.5	\$.06
Video game console	25	16	0.4	\$.04
Radio (stereo)	100	60	6.0	\$.66
<b>Home office:</b>				
Computer with 17" monitor	800	240	192.0	\$21.12
Fax machine	65	720	46.8	\$5.15
Printer (laser)	600	60	36.0	\$3.96
Printer (inkjet)	80	60	4.8	\$.53

\* For use as a guide only. Wattages and hours of use vary widely.