

↓ Kilowatt CountdownBuying New Appliances

Appliances use 15% of household power (Hydro One). Appliances have two price tags - one tag is the purchase price, the other is operating cost. Compare information on EnerGuide labels. Names like "Fuel Saver" "Energy Saver" or "Energy Miser" don't always guarantee savings.

Refrigerator

- Today's refrigerators use 60% less electricity on average than 20-year-old models (*California Energy Commission*). Choose one using around 100 kWh/year. In the most efficient models, size does not affect energy consumption.
- Buy an ENERGY STAR[®] qualified model to exceed minimum federal energy efficiency standards for energy consumption by at least 10% (*Ministry of Energy*).
- Manual defrost refrigerators typically use half the energy of an automatic defrost model, but must be defrosted regularly to stay energy efficient (*California Energy Commission*).
- If you have a separate freezer, consider buying a refrigerator without a frozen food compartment.
- Avoid options such as automatic icemakers, cold water, and specialized warmer compartments.

Stoves

- Newer ovens have additional insulation, tighter-fitting hinges and oven door gaskets. Self-cleaning models use less energy for cooking because of even higher insulation levels. (If self-cleaning option is used more than once a month, more energy will be used than saved from extra insulation).
- Smaller ovens use less energy than larger ones.
- An oven with a window allows monitoring of cooking without opening door.
- Electric convection ovens are more efficient than conventional ovens by about 20 % (*Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings*).

Stovetops

- Standalone cooktops have little or no impact on the amount of energy used.
- For highest stovetop efficiency choose stovetops in this order: Induction elements, which transfer electromagnetic energy directly to pan, are the most efficient. Next is a ceramic glass unit with halogen elements as heat source. Next are other radiant elements under ceramic glass, followed by standard electric coils. Solid disk elements are the least efficient.

Freezers

- Old models can use 50% more energy.
- Upright freezers are generally more expensive than chest freezers and are 10-25% less energy-efficient (*Office of Energy Efficiency*).

- ❑ Unlike fridges, freezer size does matter. Larger ones use more electricity. Buy appropriately.
- ❑ Automatic defrost freezers can consume 40 % more electricity than similar manual defrost models (*California Energy Commission*).

Dishwashers

- ❑ ENERGY STAR® models use 25 - 60 percent less energy than older models (*Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings*). Choose a dishwasher with a "light wash" or "energy-saving" wash cycle. It uses less water and operates for a shorter time period for slightly soiled dishes.
- ❑ Some models have built-in 'boosters' that heat only the wash water to recommended levels 60° – 63°C (140° – 145°F).
- ❑ Look for dishwashers that have an energy-saving cycle that allows dishes to be air-dried with circulation fans, rather than heat-dried with energy-wasting heating coils.
- ❑ Install a new dishwasher away from refrigerator to avoid making the fridge work overtime.

Washers

- ❑ Choose the right size washer. A smaller washer may be more efficient for small households, a larger one for larger families.
- ❑ Choose a washer with a faster spin speed. This allows more water to be removed after washing, reducing drying time and energy use.
- ❑ Think about a front-loading washer, as this is about 3 times more efficient than conventional top-loaders, both in water and energy use, and spin dry clothes more efficiently.
- ❑ Consider an ENERGY STAR® model, which uses 35-50% less water and 50% less energy per load than average. (*Ministry of Energy*).

Dryers

Dryers differ very little in energy efficiency.

- ❑ Look for a moisture-sensing feature that automatically turns dryer off when clothes reach a specified level of dryness. A moisture-sensing feature is more efficient than one that senses the temperature of the exhaust, which can lead to over-drying. However, both of these are more effective than timed drying.

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