

Appliances and Machines

Appliances, machines, and electronic devices use about 29 percent of a typical household's energy, with refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers and dryers at the top of the list. Any appliance that is designed to change temperature uses a lot of energy. You can save energy by:

- turning off appliances and machines when you aren't using them;
- using the energy-saver setting on dishwashers and refrigerators;
- keeping the doors closed as much as possible on refrigerators and freezers—know what you want before you open the doors;
- being aware that many machines use energy even when turned off—save energy by unplugging them; and
- using machines and appliances during the morning and evening, not during peak demand time.

When you shop for a new appliance, you should think of two price tags. The first one covers the purchase price—the down payment. The second price tag is the cost of operating the appliance. You'll pay the second price tag on your utility bill every month for the next 10 to 20 years. An energy efficient appliance will usually cost more, but it will save a lot of money in energy costs. An energy efficient model is almost always a better deal.

ENERGY STAR®

When you shop for a new appliance, look for the **ENERGY STAR®** label—your guarantee that the product saves energy. ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances incorporate advanced technologies that use less energy and water than standard models. A list of energy efficient appliances can be found on the ENERGY STAR® website at www.energystar.gov.



EnergyGuide Labels

Another way to determine which appliance is more energy efficient is to compare energy usage using **EnergyGuide labels**. The government requires most appliances to display bright yellow and black EnergyGuide labels. Although these labels do not tell you which appliance is the most efficient, they will tell you the annual energy consumption and operating cost of each appliance so you can compare them.

Refrigerators, for example, use about five percent of household energy. Refrigerators can last for a very long time. Replacing an older refrigerator with a new energy efficient model can save on energy bills. With older models, a large amount of electricity can be saved by setting the refrigerator temperature at 37–40°F (3–5°C), the freezer temperature at 5°F (-15°C), and making sure that the energy saver switch is in use. ENERGY STAR® refrigerators are about 10 percent more efficient than non-ENERGY STAR® models.

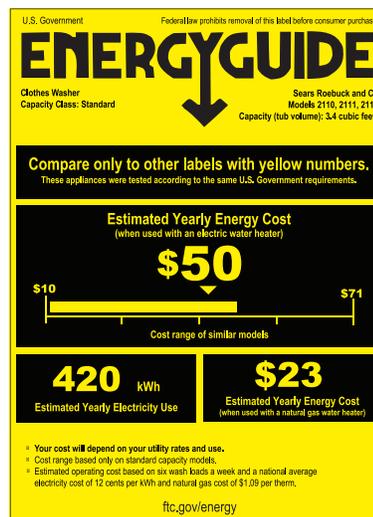
Refrigerators should also be airtight. Make sure the **gaskets** around the doors are clean and seal tightly. Close the door on a piece of paper—if you can easily pull out the paper when the door is closed, you need to replace the gaskets.

KITCHEN EXHAUST SYSTEM



Kitchen exhaust fans remove moisture from the air, which prevents mold growth and other related problems that can occur from excess water vapor.

ENERGYGUIDE LABEL



Refrigerator Efficiency

