



Save money with appliances and lighting

FACT SHEET

For more information call 800-762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com

We are used to thinking the way to cut utility bills is by saving on heating in the winter and air conditioning in the summer. However, you can also save energy and lower your utility bill by cutting the energy use of your appliances and lighting. Here are some ways to do that.

Buying an appliance

Look for the ENERGY STAR® when buying a refrigerator, freezer, clothes washer, computer, stereo and even light bulbs. The label means that the product meets government standards for energy efficiency.

Using and maintaining appliances

Clothes washers can also use a lot of energy. Use cold water to wash clothes when possible. Most detergents are made to work with cold water and the labels on many garments encourage using cold water for washing them.

Clothes dryers are another big user of electricity.

- Minimize the use of your dryer. Hang clothes outside on warm days and inside on a drying rack in the winter. You can add humidity to dry winter air without the cost of running a humidifier.
- Clean the lint trap after every load and occasionally check the connection between the dryer and the vent duct. This saves energy and reduces fire danger.
- Do not disconnect the dryer vent duct in the winter to keep the warm air in the house. It could cause humidity problems.
- Do not use a nylon stocking to capture the lint. It will quickly become clogged and reduce the dryer efficiency.



Did you know?

Clothes washing machines don't use much energy. Most of the energy is used to heat the hot water used in the washer. ENERGY STAR qualified washers use less water than standard models.



Are you eligible for help with energy efficiency improvements or heating expenses?

Qualifying Wisconsin residents may be eligible for assistance in making energy efficiency improvements to their homes or to receive help paying winter energy bills. To find out more about eligibility and the programs that are available contact 1.866.432.8947.

Did you know?

- Older model refrigerators can use \$5.00 more electricity a month than new ENERGY STAR models.
- The old refrigerator in the garage or basement could be costing you \$100 or more a year to run.

Refrigerators are one of the most energy-hungry appliances. In order to save energy and money, here are some ideas to make your existing refrigerator run its best.

- Defrost your refrigerator before the frost builds up. Frost build up causes the refrigerator to work harder and can cause food to spoil.
- Keep the refrigerator door closed. Plan what you want from the refrigerator before you open the door.
- Unplug and remove that old refrigerator running in the basement or garage.



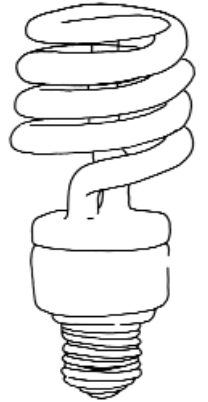
This device, a wattmeter, when placed between an appliance cord and wall outlet, will measure the energy the appliance uses.

Replacing light bulbs makes a big difference in energy use. Replace incandescent bulbs with ENERGY STAR qualified compact florescent bulbs.

For more information on reducing your utility bills and for information on special programs that may reduce the cost of purchasing energy efficient appliances or light bulbs contact the Focus on Energy program at 1-800-762-7077 or on the web at focusonenergy.com.

Did you know?

ENERGY STAR qualified compact florescent bulbs cost more than incandescent bulbs, but last up to ten times longer and use up to 75 percent less energy. They quickly pay for themselves even at the higher price. Compact florescent bulbs are now available for most types of light fixtures and are convenient to use.



Stoves and ovens use varying amounts of energy.

- Use a microwave or toaster oven for cooking small amounts of food or reheating foods.
- Keep pans on the stovetop covered while cooking. It speeds cooking and keeps humidity levels down.
- Use the smallest pan that works for the amount of food you are cooking and fit it to the right size burner. With a gas range, adjust the flame so that it doesn't extend beyond the pot.
- Turn electric burners off just before food is fully cooked. The food will continue to cook as the burner cools off.

Focus on Energy is a public-private partnership offering energy information and services to energy utility customers throughout Wisconsin. The goals of this program are to encourage energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, enhance the environment, and ensure the future supply of energy for Wisconsin. For information about the Focus on Energy services and programs, call 1.800.762.7077 or visit focusonenergy.com