

Energy – you can make a real difference

Cutting your power bill

Sometimes opening your electricity bill can be a bit of a shock, especially if it's higher than normal. Power bills can vary considerably from one quarter to another. Here are just two examples of the savings you can make by reducing the amount of time you use appliances by just one hour a day:

1. Running a 3HP (8000W) air conditioner 300 days a year, for 10 hours a day will cost around \$2307 per year. But by reducing the amount of time you run your air conditioner by one hour a day you will save around \$230 a year.
2. Running a triple bar (2400W) heater 91 days a year for eight hours a day will cost around \$336 per year. By reducing the amount of time you run your heater by one hour a day you will save around \$42 per year.

A few other simple things you can do to cut to your power bill are:

1. Keep your appliances in good working order. For example, if the door seal on your fridge or freezer is faulty, it's like leaving the door open.
2. Clean your air conditioner filters regularly. It is important that your air conditioners are fully charged with refrigerant and are the right size for the rooms you want them to cool. Be sure that rooms you are air conditioning are properly sealed – make sure windows and doors are closed.
3. Check that your solar hot water booster element is turned off when it's not needed. Also, make sure your thermostat is working correctly.
4. Be sure that your spa or pool timer is set correctly and working properly.
5. Consider the way you use your appliances. For example, do you really need to use your clothes dryer when it's not raining? Do you need to sleep with the air conditioner on every night?

If your account is higher than expected, it may be because Power and Water meter readers weren't able to access your meter and your account has been estimated. Or perhaps you have used your clothes dryer, electric heater or air conditioner more than usual.



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Ready reckoner for electrical appliances

You pay for the power you use. This is how to calculate how much your appliances are costing you to run:

1. Check the wattage on the appliance, which is usually printed on a small label attached to the appliance. (Appliances with thermostats (T), like ovens and fridges, don't use their full wattage all the time. To work out how much power they are likely to consume, halve the wattage (W) and use this number for the next step.)
2. Multiply the wattage by the average number of hours the appliance is used over the period you want to check. Then divide by 1000 and you will have the number of kilowatt hours you are using.
3. Multiply the number of kilowatt hours by 19.23 cents (the current domestic tariff).
4. Remember that there is also a set charge of 37.92 cents each day for domestic consumption, regardless of the number of kilowatt hours.

The following guide tells you the average wattage and cost in cents per hour for some common appliances. Those marked with (T) have a thermostat.

Air conditioner (T) .75 HP	= 2250W	= 21.63 cents/hour
Air conditioner (T) 1 HP	= 2500W	= 24.03 cents/hour
Air conditioner (T) 1.5 HP	= 3400W	= 32.69 cents/hour
Air conditioner (T) 2.5 HP	= 7000W	= 67.30 cents/hour
Air conditioner (T) 3HP	= 8000W	= 76.92 cents/hour
Bore 1HP	= 750W	= 14.42 cents/hour
Ceiling fan	= 80W	= 1.53 cents/hour
Chest freezer (T)	= 100W	= 0.96 cents/hour
Clothes dryer	= 2500W	= 48.07 cents/hour
Computer	= 250W	= 4.80 cents/hour
Dishwasher	= 2400W	= 46.15 cents/hour
Fridge (small) (T)	= 50W	= 0.48 cents/hour
Fridge (1 door manual) (T)	= 75W	= 0.72 cents/hour
Fridge (2 door auto defrost) (T)	= 200W	= 1.92 cents/hour
Fridge (2 door frost free) (T)	= 230W	= 2.21 cents/hour
Grill	= 1800W	= 34.61 cents/hour
Hair dryer	= 1000W	= 19.23 cents/hour
Heater (single bar)	= 1200W	= 23.07 cents/hour
Heater (double bar)	= 1800W	= 34.61 cents/hour
Heater (triple bar)	= 2400W	= 46.15 cents/hour
Iron	= 1000W	= 19.23 cents/hour
Kettle	= 2400W	= 46.15 cents/hour
Light (bulb)	= 100W	= 1.92 cents/hour
Light (fluorescent)	= 36W	= 0.69 cents/hour
Microwave oven	= 800W	= 15.38 cents/hour
Oven (T)	= 1100W	= 10.57 cents/hour
Pool pump	= 1000W	= 19.23 cents/hour
Radio	= 100W	= 1.92 cents/hour
Stereo	= 150W	= 2.88 cents/hour
Stove element (small)	= 1250W	= 24.03 cents/hour
Stove element (large)	= 1800W	= 34.61 cents/hour
Television	= 250W	= 4.80 cents/hour
Toaster	= 1500W	= 28.84 cents/hour
Vacuum cleaner	= 500W	= 9.61 cents/hour
Washing machine	= 900W	= 17.30 cents/hour

Taken from a number of sources, these costs are a guide only. Actual costs may vary.

For more information visit www.powerwater.com.au or phone 1800 245 092.