

Energy – you can make a real difference

Cutting your power bill

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 250 days a year, for 10 hours a day will cost around \$1,792 per year. But by reducing the amount of time you run your air conditioner by one hour a day you will save around \$179 a year.
2. Running a triple bar (2400W) heater 90 days a year for eight hours a day will cost around \$464 per year. By reducing the amount of time you run your heater by one hour a day you will save around \$58 per year.

To cut down your power bill you can also:

1. Keep your appliances in good working example, if the door seal on your fridge or freezer is faulty, it's like leaving the door open.
2. When buying new appliances, look at the energy efficiency star-rating label on electrical appliances and some electronic equipment including televisions. The more stars the appliance has, the more efficient it is.
3. Switch off your hot water system when it is not required, especially when you go on holidays.
4. Run your air conditioner between 24-27 degrees. For every degree cooler, you increase your aircon's running cost by 10%.
5. 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 and windows and doors are closed.
6. Consider the way you use your appliances. For example, do you really need to use a 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 also 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.



Ready reckoner for electrical appliances

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 appliances with thermostats are likely to consume, take one third of 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 **26.88 cents** (the domestic tariff applicable from 1 January 2015).
4. Remember that there is also a set charge of **53.00 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.

Appliance	Wattage (Watts)	Cost per hour (Cents/hr) 1 January 2015
Air conditioner (T) .75 HP	2250	20.2
Air conditioner (T) 1 HP	2500	22.4
Air conditioner (T) 1.5 HP	3400	30.5
Air conditioner (T) 2.5 HP	7000	62.7
Air conditioner (T) 3HP	8000	71.7
Bore 1HP	750	20.2
Box (room) air conditioner (T)	2700	24.2
Ceiling fan	80	2.2
Chest freezer (T)	100	0.9
Clothes dryer	2400	64.5
Coffee machine	600	16.1
Computer	150	4.0
Dishwasher	1200	32.3
Fridge (1 door) (T)	150	1.3
Fridge (2 door fridge/freezer) (T)	450	4.0
Fridge (2door side by side) (T)	600	5.4
Grill	1800	48.4
Hair dryer	1000	26.9
Heater (single bar)	1200	32.3
Heater (double bar)	1800	48.4
Heater (triple bar)	2400	64.5
Hot water system - 50 litre, 3.6kW	500	13.4
Iron	1000	26.9
Kettle	2400	64.5
Light (halogen globe)	42	1.1
Light (50W Halogen Downlight)	60	1.6
Light (36W fluorescent tube)	45	1.2
Light (LED)	10	0.3
Microwave oven	800	21.5
Oven	1100	29.6
Pool pump	1000	26.9
Stereo	150	4.0
Stove element (small)	1250	33.6
Stove element (large)	1800	48.4
Television (40 inch LCD)	100	2.7
Television (47 inch LED)	80	2.2
Television (50 inch Plasma)	500	13.4
Toaster	1500	40.3
Vacuum cleaner	1800	48.4
Washing machine	900	24.2