

6 facts about power usage

Star rating labels

The **Energy Rating label** is now mandatory on many appliances. It uses a star rating system to show how efficient a product is. The more stars the more electricity you will save.

Comparison table showing average costs and consumption in kilowatt-hour (kWh) per year*:

Clothes dryer 7kg	Based on 5 loads x 52 weeks	2 star = \$392 1460 kWh	6 star = \$210 780 kWh
Washing machine 7kg	Based on 5 loads x 52 week	2 star = \$146 545 kWh	4½ star = \$56 210 kWh
2 door fridge/freezer 450L	Based on 365 days	2 star = \$151 563 kWh	4 star = \$85 318 kWh
LCD (LED) Television 101cm screen	Based on 10 hours viewing per day x 365 days	5 star = \$95 353 kWh	9 star = \$45 168 kWh

*for more products comparisons, visit energyrating.gov.au

Lighting

Compared to halogen incandescent light bulbs, LED lights use up to 79% less energy. LED lights also provide better quality of light and last up to 13 times longer, meaning you won't have to change them as often.

Heating and cooling

Every degree of heating and cooling can increase energy consumption by up to 10%. Try running your aircon between 24 degrees -27 degrees Celsius and use the fans at the same time; the evaporative effect of air movement will increase the cooling effect. Turning your aircon up by just one degree will save up to \$143 a year for a large 3HP system running 8 hours a day.

Water heating

Hot water systems often overheat water and in doing so cost you money. If your system has a thermostat, set the temperature between 50°-60°C. Depending on your family's needs try switching your hot water off when it is not required, especially when you go on holidays.

Standby power

Appliances such as microwaves, stereos, DVD players, computers and TVs consume standby power which can be equivalent to 4% of their actual running cost.

Appliances' usage

Consider how often and how long you use your appliances for. It would take about the same amount of energy to run a 2 door fridge for 16 hours, use your clothes dryer for one hour, run a large aircon for 54 minutes or boil a full kettle for a total of one hour.

To find out more and to calculate your average household energy use, visit the Virtual Energy Audit at powerwater.com.au/save.

Disclaimer: The values and comparisons mentioned are an estimate based on average consumption. Actual consumption, running costs and savings will vary depending on how you use your appliances.