Your guide to home electrical appliance running costs

By using the tables provided in our Energy Tracker, you can work out how much electricity individual appliances cost to run. This will help identify areas where you might be able to improve your electricity usage and assist you to track your progress over time. If you need any help along the way, just call us.

Get started with these easy steps:

Step 1. Complete your energy diary and calculate the total number of hours used for each appliance over the week.

Step 2. Find out how much electricity your appliances use. It's usually written somewhere on the appliance or in your appliance instruction booklet and might be given in 'watts'[1] or 'kilowatts'. If it is given in watts simply convert to kilowatts. If you are unsure of the appliance's rating you can always visit energyrating.gov.au and do a search for the appliances you have to find out how much electricity they use (kW/h).

Step 3. Fill in the kilowatts column in your Energy Tracker.

Step 4. Now, multiply the kilowatts by the number of hours used in your diary. To work out your energy usage, you need to know how many kilowatts an appliance uses in an hour (kW/h). There are 1,000 watts in one kilowatt. So, for example, to convert 150 watts into kilowatts, you divide it by 1,000 which equals 0.15kW.

Step 5. Next, multiply the kilowatt hours used in your diary by your electricity unit cost. This will give you the total appliance running costs for one week. You will find your electricity unit cost on your electricity bill; you will see both peak and off peak rates and the times that apply to these rates.[2]

Please note − This is a guide only to help you identify which appliances consume the most electricity. When recording your energy use please be aware that appliances in stand by mode (e.g. TVs) or that are switched on but are not in use (e.g. microwaves) still use energy. To save energy switch the appliance off at the wall when not in use.

Example calculation

	Kilowatts	x	No. of hrs used per week		Total kW hrs used per week	x	Unit cost of electricity	=	Cost per week
Refrigerator/ freezer 2 door top-mount	0.15	x	168	=	25.2	x	$00.21	=	$05.29
Television (plasma)	0.2	x	21	=	4.2	x	$00.21	=	$00.88

Our EnergyAustralia team is here to help

If you need assistance with this guide or have any questions about energy efficient solutions, just give us a call.

1. There are 1,000 watts in one kilowatt. So, for example, to convert 150 watts into kilowatts, you divide it by 1000 which equals 0.15Kw
2. To find out where this is displayed on your bill go to energyaustralia.com.au/billguide

Your energy usage diary

This diary can help you track your actual electricity use. Each day, make a record of the appliances you use and approximately how long you use them for. At the end of the week you can calculate the total hours used over the week for each appliance.

If you have safe access to your meter, compare your diary to your meter reading each day (just remember to read your meter at the same time each day). To help you identify more efficient appliances, or to get information about the kilowatts used by your appliances, visit energyrating.gov.au and savepower.nsw.gov.au

Appliance	Number of hours used daily	Appliance	Number of hours used daily

Day: 1

Appliance	Number of hours used daily	Appliance	Number of hours used daily
Daily meter read			

Day: 2

Appliance	Number of hours used daily	Appliance	Number of hours used daily
Daily meter read			

Day: 3

Appliance	Number of hours used daily	Appliance	Number of hours used daily
Daily meter read			

Day: 4

Appliance	Number of hours used daily	Appliance	Number of hours used daily
Daily meter read			

Day: 5

Appliance	Number of hours used daily	Appliance	Number of hours used daily
Daily meter read			

Day: 6

Appliance	Number of hours used daily	Appliance	Number of hours used daily
Daily meter read			

Day: 7

Appliance	Number of hours used daily	Appliance	Number of hours used daily
Daily meter read			

Your Energy Tracker

Lighting

Multiply the cost by the number of globes in your home. Use compact fluorescent globes instead of incandescent globes as they use less energy.

	Kilowatts	x	No. of hrs used per week	=	Total kW hrs used per week	x	Unit cost of electricity	=	Cost per week
Energy efficient light globes		x		=		x		=	
Standard light globes		x		=		x		=	
Candle shaped light globes		x		=		x		=	
Fluorescent lights		x		=		x		=	
Downlights		x		=		x		=	
Outdoor lighting		x		=		x		=	

Heating

This can be the most expensive part of your electricity bill. Costs vary depending on heater size and type, thermostat setting, house size and the weather. Remember to also get your heating system serviced regularly so that it doesn't consume more energy than necessary.

		x		=		x		=	
Electric portable heater		x		=		x		=	
Electric fixed heater (with thermostat)		x		=		x		=	
Electric fixed heater (without thermostat)		x		=		x		=	
Electric off peak heating		x		=		x		=	
Natural gas wall heater (old)		x		=		x		=	
Natural gas wall heater (new)		x		=		x		=	
Natural gas ducted heating (zoned)		x		=		x		=	
Natural gas ducted gas heating (whole house)		x		=		x		=	

Cooling

Set the temperature between 23 and 26 degrees Celsius on your air conditioner, every degree cooler than this requires about 10 per cent more energy. Remember to also get your air conditioning serviced regularly so that it continues to operate efficiently.

		x		=		x		=	
Electric fans		x		=		x		=	
Ceiling fans		x		=		x		=	
Portable air conditioner - evaporative		x		=		x		=	
Portable air conditioner - refrigerated		x		=		x		=	
Ducted air conditioner - evaporative		x		=		x		=	
Ducted air conditioner - refrigerated		x		=		x		=	
Split system air conditioner		x		=		x		=	
Fixed box air conditioner		x		=		x		=	

Laundry

Using a clothes dryer during winter months can add to your usage. Appliances with a higher energy efficiency rating can make a difference.

		x		=		x		=	
Iron		x		=		x		=	
Vacuum cleaner		x		=		x		=	
Dryer		x		=		x		=	
Washing machine - warm wash		x		=		x		=	
Washing machine - cold wash		x		=		x		=	

Outdoor

Swimming pool lights and the running of filter motors will affect summer electricity usage.

		x		=		x		=	
Swimming pool lights		x		=		x		=	
Swimming pool filter pump		x		=		x		=	
Spa bath with 2.4kW heater		x		=		x		=	

Your Energy Tracker

Bathroom/hot water

Check if you have a gas or electric hot water system. Gas hot water systems generally use less energy than electric hot water systems.

	Kilowatts	x	No. of hrs used per week	=	Total kW hrs used per week	x	Unit cost of electricity	=	Cost per week
Electric storage/off-peak (large)		x		=		x		=	
Electric instantaneous (small)		x		=		x		=	
Gas storage (tank)		x		=		x		=	
Gas instantaneous (wall mounted)		x		=		x		=	
Solar electric		x		=		x		=	
Solar gas		x		=		x		=	
Hair dryer		x		=		x		=	
Hair straightener		x		=		x		=	

Kitchen

Modern refrigerators use less electricity than older ones. Refrigeration is usually calculated to run 24 hours a day.

		x		=		x		=	
Electric kettle		x		=		x		=	
Microwave oven		x		=		x		=	
Oven - fan forced		x		=		x		=	
Oven - conventional		x		=		x		=	
Toaster - 2 slice		x		=		x		=	
Dishwasher		x		=		x		=	
Bar fridge		x		=		x		=	
Chest freezer		x		=		x		=	
Upright freezer		x		=		x		=	
Refrigerator/freezer 2 door top mount		x		=		x		=	
Refrigerator/freezer 2 door side by side		x		=		x		=	

Family room

Entertainment systems, plasma televisions and computer gaming can have a significant influence on your electricity usage.

		x		=		x		=	
TV (LCD or standard TV)		x		=		x		=	
TV (plasma)		x		=		x		=	
DVD player		x		=		x		=	
Bluray player		x		=		x		=	
Stereo system		x		=		x		=	
Desktop computers		x		=		x		=	
Laptop		x		=		x		=	
Printer		x		=		x		=	
Cordless phone		x		=		x		=	

Bedrooms

Switch off appliances such as electric blankets and oil heaters before you go to sleep. For other appliances such as stereos and televisions, make sure you switch them off at the wall when not in use.

		x		=		x		=	
Electric blanket - double		x		=		x		=	
Electric blanket - single		x		=		x		=	
Electric clock radio / stereo		x		=		x		=	
Mobile phone charger		x		=		x		=	