

Your guide to electrical appliance running costs



Use our energy tracker to determine how much electricity your individual appliances cost to run. This tool will help identify areas where you might be able to improve your electricity usage and assist you to see your progress over time. If you need any help with this document, call us at 1300 426 594.

Get started with these easy steps:

Step 1. Complete your energy usage diary and calculate how many hours each electrical appliance is used over a week.

Step 2. Find out how much electricity your appliances use. It's usually written on the appliance or in the appliance instruction booklet and might be given in 'watts'¹ or 'kilowatts'. Convert to kilowatts if it is given in watts. Visit energyrating.gov.au and search for the appliances you have to find out how much electricity they use (kW/h) if you're unsure about your appliance's rating.

Step 3. Fill in the kilowatts column in your energy tracker.

Step 4. 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).

Step 5. 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.

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 standby mode or that are switched on but are not in use 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	0.10	x	130	=	13	x	\$00.19	=	\$2.47
Television	0.15	x	10	=	1.5	x	\$00.25	=	\$0.38

1st Energy are here to help

If you need assistance with this guide or have any questions about energy efficient solutions, just give us a call at 1300 426 594.

1. There are 1,000 watts in one kilowatt. For example, to convert 150 watts to kilowatts, divide it by 1000 which is 0.15kW.

Your energy usage diary

This diary can help you track your actual electricity use. Make a record of the appliances you use and approximately how long you use them for every day. 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).

Appliance	Number of hours used daily
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Appliance	Number of hours used daily
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Day: 1

Daily meter read	
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Day: 2

Daily meter read	
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Day: 3

Daily meter read	
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Day: 4

Daily meter read	
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Day: 5

Daily meter read	
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Day: 6

Daily meter read	
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Day: 7

Daily meter read	
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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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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