



Appliance operating costs

*A reference guide for
determining the average
cost of your home
appliances each month*



PowerHouse

Presented by  **ALLIANT
ENERGY**

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Appliance operating costs

Have you ever wondered how much electricity your household a the cost of running the electrical devices in your home.

To learn more about understanding your energy costs, be sure to

Here's how we calculated the chart:

- 1 Multiply the wattage by the number of hours the appliance is used each month. This chart lists the approximate usage by a typical family. (Don't forget to account for appliances like refrigerators that cycle on and off, and seasonal appliances like air conditioners and hot tubs.)
- 2 Divide the total wattage by 1000 to determine the number of kilowatt hours used. A kilowatt hour is the unit of energy equal to 1000 watts of electricity used for one hour.
- 3 Multiply the kilowatt-hours used by the rate paid for electricity. The average cost for Alliant Energy residential customers is 10 cents per kilowatt hour; your rate may be slightly higher or lower depending on a variety of factors (see back page).

Appliance	Wattage	X	Hours per month	/	1000	X	Cost per kWh	=	Avg. Total \$ per month
Kitchen appliances									
Blender	300		0.5		1000		0.10		0.02
Bread maker	680		2		1000		0.10		0.14
Broiler	3100		4		1000		0.10		1.24
Can opener	100		0.5		1000		0.10		0.01
Coffeemaker	800		30		1000		0.10		2.40
Cooktop/range	1675		15		1000		0.10		2.51
Crock pot	250		2		1000		0.10		0.05
Dishwasher, heated dry cycle	1200		30		1000		0.10		3.60
Dishwasher, no dry cycle	200		30		1000		0.10		0.60
Food processor	350		0.5		1000		0.10		0.02
Freezer (approx. 16 cu. Ft.)	375		240		1000		0.10		9.00
Frying pan/skillet	600		1		1000		0.10		0.06
Fryer, deep fat	1500		0.5		1000		0.10		0.08
Garbage disposal	440		0.5		1000		0.10		0.02
Griddle	1200		1		1000		0.10		0.12
Ice cream maker	150		1		1000		0.10		0.02
Ice crusher	100		0.5		1000		0.10		0.01
Microwave oven	1400		15		1000		0.10		2.10
Mixer, hand-held	100		0.5		1000		0.10		0.01
Mixer, stand	150		0.5		1000		0.10		0.01
Oven (electric)	4000		15		1000		0.10		6.00
Popcorn popper	575		1		1000		0.10		0.06
Refrigerator/freezer, dorm size	350		180		1000		0.10		6.30
Refrigerator/freezer, standard	700		180		1000		0.10		12.60
Roaster	1425		1		1000		0.10		0.14
Rotisserie	1400		1		1000		0.10		0.14
Toaster oven	1500		5		1000		0.10		0.75
Toaster, two-slice	1100		5		1000		0.10		0.55

appliances use? By using the chart on this page, you can estimate
 read the “Electricity Q&A” on the back page.

Appliance	Wattage	X	Hours per month	/	1000	X	Cost per kWh	=	Avg. Total \$ per month
Laundry appliances									
Clothes dryer (electric)	5000		30		1000		0.10		15.00
Clothes washer	500		30		1000		0.10		1.50
Iron	1100		5		1000		0.10		0.55

Personal items									
Curling iron	40		10		1000		0.10		0.04
Electric blanket	180		200		1000		0.10		3.60
Hair dryer	1500		10		1000		0.10		1.50
Heating pad	60		5		1000		0.10		0.03
Indoor whirlpool tub	1000		5		1000		0.10		0.50
Outdoor hot tub	1500		100		1000		0.10		15.00
Shaver	15		10		1000		0.10		0.02
Sun lamp/heat lamp	250		10		1000		0.10		0.25
Waterbed heater, double	375		240		1000		0.10		9.00

Home electronics									
Computer	200		75		1000		0.10		1.50
Fax machine	300		15		1000		0.10		0.45
Radio or clock/radio	75		150		1000		0.10		1.13
Stereo	120		60		1000		0.10		0.72
TV, 13"	60		120		1000		0.10		0.72
TV, 35"	210		120		1000		0.10		2.52
VCR	45		30		1000		0.10		0.14

Air quality									
Air cleaner	75		180		1000		0.10		1.35
Air conditioner, central	2500		180		1000		0.10		45.00
Air conditioner, room	1200		180		1000		0.10		21.60
Dehumidifier	500		180		1000		0.10		9.00
Fan, attic	400		60		1000		0.10		2.40
Fan, box	200		60		1000		0.10		1.20
Fan, ceiling	100		60		1000		0.10		0.60
Fan, furnace blower	200		180		1000		0.10		3.60
Heater, portable	1500		60		1000		0.10		9.00
Humidifier	200		180		1000		0.10		3.60



Appliance **Wattage** X **Hours per month** / **1000** X **Cost per kWh** = **Avg. Total \$ per month**

Lighting

Incandescent bulb	100	180	1000	0.10	1.80
Compact fluorescent bulb	20	180	1000	0.10	0.36
Holiday lights, large (20/string)	150	120	1000	0.10	1.80
Holiday lights, small (50/string)	20	120	1000	0.10	0.24
Outdoor lights, buglight	100	120	1000	0.10	1.20
Outdoor lights, flood/spot	150	60	1000	0.10	0.90
Outdoor lights, lamp post	100	240	1000	0.10	2.40
Outdoor lights, porch light	75	60	1000	0.10	0.45

Workshop/garage

Belt sander	600	4	1000	0.10	0.24
Circular saw	1100	4	1000	0.10	0.44
Disc sander	280	4	1000	0.10	0.11
Drill	440	4	1000	0.10	0.18
Electric lawn mower	1200	4	1000	0.10	0.48
Garage door opener	350	6	1000	0.10	0.21
Hedge clipper	250	4	1000	0.10	0.10
Sabre saw/jig saw	360	4	1000	0.10	0.14
Soldering gun	600	4	1000	0.10	0.24

Miscellaneous

Aquarium heater	110	180	1000	0.10	1.98
Clock	3	720	1000	0.10	0.22
Engine block heater	1000	15	1000	0.10	1.50
Sewing machine	100	8	1000	0.10	0.08
Sump pump	1300	6	1000	0.10	0.78
Swimming pool pump	500	90	1000	0.10	4.50
Vacuum cleaner	600	4	1000	0.10	0.24
Vacuum, central system	800	4	1000	0.10	0.32
Water heater, electric	2500	150	1000	0.10	37.50
Water softener	3	60	1000	0.10	0.02
Well or water pump	325	30	1000	0.10	0.98

Q&A *on electricity*

Why is my rate different from the average?

Because Alliant Energy's service territory encompasses four states, your cost per kilowatt hour may be slightly higher or lower than the 10-cent average we've used in the worksheet. Our rates vary depending on state regulatory requirements, seasonal market fluctuations and how much electricity your household consumes each month.

Why is my electric bill so much higher than my neighbor's?

Every family has different energy needs. One factor is the number of people in the household — families with young children use more electricity because they do more laundry, wash more dishes and have more home electronics.

Another consideration is the age of your major appliances. A new high-efficiency central air conditioner will use about half as much electricity as an older model. The energy efficiency of refrigerators and water heaters also has improved greatly over the past ten years. The quantity of appliances is also important — a second refrigerator or large-capacity freezer can raise your energy costs by more than \$100 every year. This worksheet will help you determine where your electricity dollars are going.

To improve your overall home energy use, give us a call to request our free "My Home Comfort Check Up." This do-it-yourself energy audit will identify ways to reduce your electricity and natural gas consumption, without sacrificing your family's comfort and convenience.

What's the best way to reduce my electricity bill?

The answer again depends on the needs of your family. Investing in new high-efficiency appliances will bring the most dramatic reduction, but this isn't an option for all homeowners. Instead, remember all the little ways to save energy: turning off lights, washing only full loads of clothes, using smaller kitchen appliances

whenever possible. The savings for each is small, but it can add up to a noticeable difference.

The PowerHouse brochure on "Choosing and Using Appliances" is filled with great ideas for getting the most from your appliances. You can request a free copy by giving us a call or you can find the full text on the Internet at www.powerhousetv.com.



When I'm buying new appliances, what should I look for?

Almost all home appliances, including refrigerators, dishwashers and laundry units, will have a prominent yellow and black "Energy Guide" label. The information on this label can help you determine how much you can expect to pay to use the appliance.

The largest number on the guide states the estimated annual operating cost of the appliance. Some appliances, such as ovens or clothes dryers, may have two large numbers: one for electric models, the other for natural gas. When comparing appliances, be sure to compare models of similar size and capacity.

You can also look for the ENERGY STAR® label from the federal government. This identifies appliances as being the most energy-efficient products in their classes. They usually exceed minimum federal energy-use standards by a substantial amount.

Is it true that electronic items like TVs and VCRs use electricity even when they're turned off?

Yes. It's called "standby power" or "leaking electricity." Many high-tech devices, including computers and microwaves, require constant power to maintain the settings you program in. For example, when you turn your television off, it still draws power to remember the last channel you viewed and to turn on instantly without a lengthy warm-up time.

The impact on your electric bill depends on how many of these devices you own. The energy used for standby power ranges from two watts for video games up to 13.8 watts for a digital satellite system. In some cases, a large percentage of the unit's total energy consumption occurs while the item is turned off.

According to Science News magazine, a typical home uses about 50 watts to power devices that supposedly aren't on — about five percent of the home's total electricity use. If leaking electricity is a concern for you, there's a simple solution: unplug the appliances whenever you turn them off.



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