

Buying Energy Efficient Appliances

The cost of owning a home appliance has three components: the initial purchase price, the cost of repairs and maintenance, and the cost to operate it. Appliances that are more energy efficient and/or have lower water use will reduce your operating expenses.

Finding Efficient Appliances

The Federal Trade Commission's requires manufacturers to label appliances with a yellow-and-black EnergyGuide label. The rule applies to refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, water heaters, furnaces, boilers, central air conditioners, room air conditioners, heat pumps, and pool heaters. The labels include information on the appliance's capacity and energy use to allow you to compare models.

Some appliances may also be ENERGY STAR® qualified, displaying the ENERGY STAR logo which means that the appliance is significantly more energy efficient than the

average comparable model.

In fact, ENERGY STAR qualified appliances incorporate advanced technologies that use 10–50% less energy and water than standard models.

Financial Incentives for Buying ENERGY STAR

In addition to reducing your utility costs, ENERGY STAR appliances may be eligible for rebates through your state and local governments and through ENERGY STAR partners.

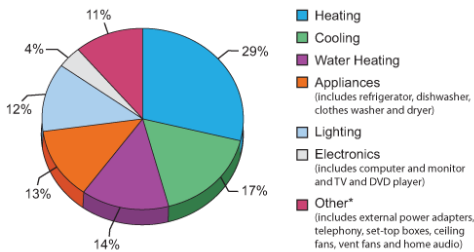
In addition, all ENERGY STAR qualified solar water heaters and non-solar water heaters meeting certain energy efficiency requirements are eligible for the federal tax credit expiring December 31, 2016.

Be aware that the state rebate programs may be available for only a short time during 2010 since they are funded through limited American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds provided by the federal government.

If you are buying a washer or

Where Does My Money Go?

Annual Energy Bill for a typical Single Family Home is approximately \$2,200.



Source: Typical House memo, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 2009 and Typical house_2009_Reference.xls spreadsheet.

Appliances account for 13% of energy expenses in a typical single family household

Insulating Your Home

Buying Energy Efficient Appliances – Continued

dishwasher, you should also check for water efficient product rebates through your local water utility.

Resources on Financial Incentives and Comparing ENERGY STAR Appliances

Find information on federal tax credits, financial incentives available in your area, and energy efficiency information on ENERGY STAR qualified appliances at the websites listed below.

- Federal tax credits -- www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax_credits.tx_index
- State rebates -- www.energysavers.gov/financial/70022.html
- Other partner incentives -- www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=rebate.rebate_locator
- ENERGY STAR qualified models -- www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find_a_product

Right Size and Maintain Your Appliances

Keep in mind that the ENERGY STAR logo indicates that that particular model is energy efficiency relative to comparable models. So, whether you are buying a new home appliance or home electronics, do not buy a larger, more energy consuming model than you need. And, do regular, simple maintenance, such as vacuuming the coils or your refrigerator and removing lint from your dryer to maximize savings at no cost.

Go to www.SmartEnergyLiving.org for More Information About Energy Efficiency

Smart Energy Living Alliance® is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to helping consumers, like you, make smart energy decisions and ensuring qualified professionals are available to meet consumer needs. We provide unbiased information, tools and resources, including connecting you to local energy businesses.

The managing partners of the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) created us in 1999. We publish an award-winning magazine, Smart Energy Living, in partnership with NREL.

For a free subscription to Smart Energy Living magazine or newsletter, or other helpful information on energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy, go to www.SmartEnergyLiving.org.



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