Water heaters are specified in terms of tank size, rate of recovery or reheating capacity rated in gallons per hour. An under size unit uses energy to keep unneeded water hot. Be sure you have the right size for your needs.

Check the temperature on your water heater. Most water heaters are set for 60°C (140°F) or higher but you may not need water that hot unless you have a dishwasher. A temperature of 49°C (120°F) is recommended if you do not have one.

Twice a year (monthly if you live in an area with heavy mineral deposits in the water) drain a couple of gallons of water from you hot water tank. This will help remove sediment which insulates the tank from the source of heat and wastes energy.

Fix dripping faucets. One drip per second from a leaky hot water faucet or shower head sends about 175 gallons a month down the drain. That is money down the drain!

Minimize stand-by losses. Heat losses from an uninsulated hot water storage tank and supply lines can be significant. You can reduce losses by wrapping blanket insulation around and over the shell of the tank. Pipe insulation is needed especially where pipes run through unheated areas such as basement and crawl spaces.

Wash only full loads in clothes and dishwashers.

Use as low a water temperature as possible for the wash cycle of your clothes washer.

When washing dishes by hand, fill a pan with hot water for rinsing. Don't let hot water run continuously.

Install a flow restrictor device on your shower head, this device reduces the amount of water flowing from the pipe (but not the pressure).

Take quick showers instead of baths; they use up to 50 percent less hot water. If you must take a bath, use cooler water and less of it.

When you need boiling water, start with water from the hot water tap. It will take less time to bring to a boil.

When shaving, partially fill the basin with hot water instead of letting it go down the drain. If you can, switch to an electric razor and save even more.

Turn the water heater thermostat all the way down when you go on vacation.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND HOME APPLIANCES

The everyday use of appliances primarily those concerned with food handling and lighting account for the remaining 10 percent of energy used in the home.

For appliances, the best general advice is to start by reading or rereading the use and care book that came with your appliances. They describe exactly how to use each appliance most efficiently. The use-and-care manual will also tell you if any regular maintenance is required—cleaning, adjusting, oiling. A proper working product is clearly more efficient. If you've lost any of these manuals, write to the company and ask for another (be sure to include the appliance number).

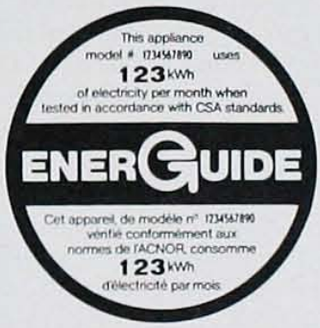
Before you buy any appliance, remember that energy costs are rising. Answering the following questions may help you decide which things to buy or maybe not to buy.

1. Do I need it or do I just want it?
2. Once I have it, how often will I use it?
3. Do I have something like that I can fix?
4. Is there a better product?
5. Is there an alternative that will not consume energy?
6. Am I buying on impulse?

When buying or replacing one that is worn out look for labels on an appliance that indicate how efficiently the appliance uses the energy required to operate. Also, always compare the energy consumption of units of similar and varying capacities and features. Energy efficient appliances usually cost more than less efficient models; however the difference in purchase price is usually repaid through economy of operation and maintenance.

In Canada, the new regulation in the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act, requires an energy consumption label to be prominently displayed on all refrigerators manufactured after September 30, 1978. Other appliances will follow in the months ahead.

This label is called "Energuide". It will state the kilowatt hours per month (KWH) energy consumption of each model. This will permit you to select the refrigerator which consumes the least amount of energy among comparable models.



Labelling regulations to establish the energy consumption of other household electrical appliances will be introduced soon. Look for them in the future as you shop.

ENERGY AND YOUR PERSONAL LIVING HABITS

Over the years we have become accustomed to cheap energy that we often waste energy without realizing that the waste is not necessary.

To begin with you will learn to save energy by making simple changes in your lifestyle. In most cases the changes will cost you nothing, and the savings can be significant.

The simplest and most effective method of cutting energy use in the home is to lower your thermostat and wear a sweater. Department of Energy, Mines and