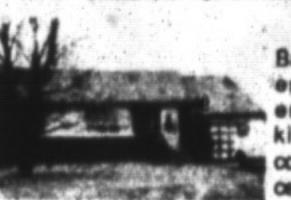
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The Home of Friendly Service



# Choose appliances carefully to save thousands of dollars in energy costs

The electricity saved by buying energy efficient appliances can add up to thousands of dollars, says Ralph Williams, Energy Advisor for Burlington Hydro. "Major appliances account for about 30 per cent of the total electricity used in the home," says Williams. "Since you'll have to live with your many appliances for years to come, it really pays to shop around and make your choices carefully."

For example, Ontario Hydro figures show an energy-efficient refrigerator can cost over \$500 less to operate over its expected 17-year lifespan than a non-efficient unit.

When choosing an appliance, Joe Mc-Auley, Customer Service Manager of Oakville Hydro says consumers should deter-

mine the "second price tag," which is the cost of the electricity needed to operate the unit. Look for the EnerGuide label, a black and white circular sticker required by federal law to be on all new major appliances. The label lists the appliance's electricity consumption in kilowatt hours (KWh) per month.

"To determine the operating costs, multiply the EnerGuide rating by the cost per kWh of electricity, which is currently about 6.7 cents. Thar will give you the monthly cost," says McAuley. "Then multiply that number by 12 to give you an annual cost, and that cost by the expected lifetime of the appliance. The figures are just averages and don't account for the way someone might use their appliance or for increased electricity costs. But it's handy to use when shopping."

Freezers last an average of 21 years; electric dryers 18 years, the same goes for electric ranges; clothes washers 14 years; and dishwashers 13 years.

McAuley says refrigerators with side-byside doors generally use the most energy, while one door, manual-defrost models use the least. But he says there are exceptions to this rule, so it's best to check the EnerGuide label. Other tips:

- Check to see if the regfrigerator has an energy saver switch. It allows maximum energy savings when used as directed in the operating manual.

- Look for a refrigerator with wheels. It's easier to clean and vacuum the coils.

- A second refrigerator can cost \$100 per year to operate. Consider using only one refrigerator, a large one if required, and save energy and money.

Freezers last the longest of all appliances,

so it's important to choose an efficient model, says McAuley. Chest freezers are more efficient than upright units. About 85 to 145 lites (3 to 5 cubic feet) per family member is the right size to buy. Freezers operate best when they are two-thirds full.

Self-cleaning ovens, although they cost more than conventional models, are more efficient because they are better insulated. Dave Smith of Milton Hydro says the best time to use the self-cleaning feature is right after cooking when the oven is already hot. "Look for oven doors that are well insulated and fit tightly," he says. "A window in the oven door allows you to look in without opening the door."

Using efficient dishwashers will save both water and electricity. Smith says some modern dishwashers use less water than if you washed the dishes by hjand. Check for:

- Althort cycle or econo wash feature that uses less hot water.
- A switch that turns off the heating so the dishes will air-dry.
- Extra powerful spray action that cuts down on water use.
- A delay wash option so the dishwasher can be programmed to come on at night when hot water isn't being used for other things.

For clothes washers, look for models that offer cold wash and rinse cycles, says Smith. Models with water level control and shorter, gentler cycles are good for small loads and fine fabrics. Front loading washers, loke those in laundromats, are more energy efficient than top-loaded models because they use less hot water.

If you only do small clothes washing loads, consider buying a compact washer

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