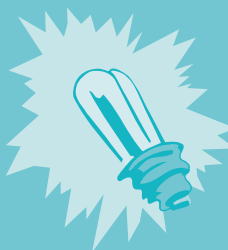


Cutting Your Energy Use

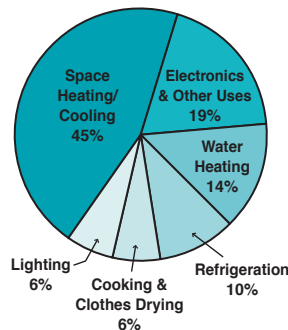


Electricity is something most of us take for granted, so we often forget about just how much we rely on it for everyday living. This fact sheet will help you identify where your energy dollars are going and give you some guidance if you're looking for ways to save money.

How we use energy in our homes

The biggest portion of your electric bill, if you heat with electricity, is for heating/cooling and water heating. Insulation is the key to saving on heating and cooling. Check the "R" value of your insulation. You should have at least R-38 in the ceiling, R-11 to R-21 in the walls and R-19 to R-30 in the floor.

Appliances like water heaters and refrigerator/freezers that are "on" all the time use much more electricity than other appliances. When purchasing appliances, look for the Energy Star® label or check the Energy-Guide label to make sure you are getting the most efficiency.



The graph represents average electrical use in a Pacific Northwest home. Your home may perform differently based on your lifestyle and the amount of insulation in your home.

Hot water use

Showers and baths account for almost one-half of the hot water used in a typical home. Clothes washing can make up another one-quarter. Using a low-flow showerhead and washing your clothes in cold water when possible can significantly reduce your hot water costs.



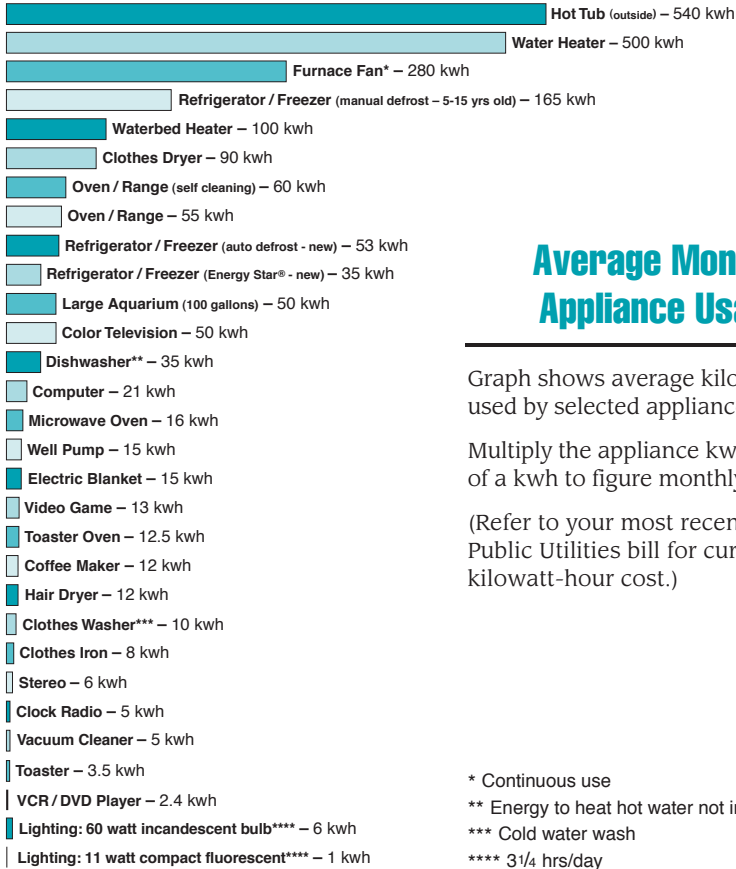
A typical bathtub uses at least 50 gallons of hot water. That is the equivalent of four people taking a five-minute shower using a low-flow showerhead. Cut your hot water costs by taking a shower instead of a bath.

Big energy users

If you think your electricity bill is higher than it should be, take a look around your home to see what may be causing the situation.

Common energy-wasting problems:

- ◆ Insufficient insulation in walls, ceilings and floors
- ◆ Un-insulated, loose or leaking furnace ductwork
- ◆ Faulty water heaters
- ◆ Dirty furnace filters
- ◆ Electric water heaters that are set above 125 degrees
- ◆ Leaks in water heaters or hot water faucets
- ◆ Open fireplaces (more heat is lost up the chimney than is released into the room)



Average Monthly Appliance Usage

Graph shows average kilowatt-hours used by selected appliances.

Multiply the appliance kwh x cost of a kwh to figure monthly cost.

(Refer to your most recent Clark Public Utilities bill for current kilowatt-hour cost.)

* Continuous use

** Energy to heat hot water not included

*** Cold water wash

**** 3¼ hrs/day

Power-hungry equipment:

- ◆ Plug-in space heaters
- ◆ Portable RV heaters
- ◆ Waterbed with heater
- ◆ Hot tub
- ◆ Fish tanks/aquariums
- ◆ Halogen torchiere floor lamps (which in addition to using lots of electricity, present a serious safety hazard in your home)
- ◆ Old/extra refrigerators and freezers
- ◆ Home office equipment
- ◆ Pumps for well, pool, ponds/waterfalls and septic systems

For more information about just how much electricity typical appliances use each month, see the chart above.

Air leaks

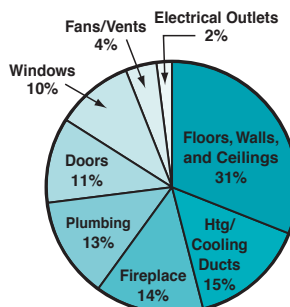
Air leaks waste energy and decrease comfort. Air leaks into and out of every crack and hole in the house, taking your heating and cooling dollars with it. Almost one-third of air leaks occur in the floor and ceiling. Seal these leaks with caulking.

A few tips to prevent air leaks:

- ◆ Replace broken or cracked windows
- ◆ Seal gaps around windows and doors
- ◆ Close your fireplace damper when not in use (48 hours after the last fire) and install glass doors
- ◆ Adjust weather-stripping around doors so it fits snugly against the door
- ◆ Use expanding foam to seal around plumbing where it comes through walls and floors

Also, check the "R" value of your insulation to see if you should add more. Attic or ceiling insulation should be at least R-38, while floor insulation should be between R-19 and R-30.

Residential Air Leakage



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 360-992-3000
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QUESTIONS?

We're here to help you

however we can.

Just call one of our

energy counselors at

360-992-3355.