

## ENERGY CENTS: SAVING \$\$\$ WITH DISHWASHERS

To maximize your energy savings...

- Consider replacing your old dishwasher with a new energy and water efficient model. New dishwashers save more than \$20 per year in energy costs compared to units built in 1980. Visit our "Who Makes What" section for more information about dishwashers now.
- When you are planning a new kitchen, avoid placing your dishwasher next to your refrigerator. The heat and moisture generated by your dishwasher will make your refrigerator work harder if they are side-by-side.
- Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions provided in the dishwasher's use and care booklet, and keep it in an accessible place so you can refer to it as needed.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for loading your dishwasher. Be sure that no dishware blocks the rotation of the wash arm!
- Use only automatic dishwasher detergent and check your use & care book for the directions on the right amount to use. Store your detergent in a cool dry place to avoid "caking" which may affect dishwashing performance.
- Heating water accounts for over 80% of the energy used in washing dishes, so wash only full loads!
- Don't waste water with pre-rinsing, just be sure that the dishes are scraped and empty of liquids.
- Always select the energy-saving cycle that will effectively wash the load. These cycles include: quick wash; light cycle for china/glassware; heavy duty for pots/pans; sani-rinse; water heating; and energy saver.
- Use the no-heat option or turn off the dishwasher after the last rinse. Normal air circulation will dry your dishes overnight.
- If your dishwasher has a rinse agent dispenser, keep it filled! It will insure more spot-free dishes and will avoid wasting water, re-washing or re-rinsing.
- Many dishwashers have self-cleaning filters, but if your model doesn't, check the filter often to be sure that it is not clogged with food particles.

- Use the delay start option to run your dishwasher during off-peak utility hours. Some utilities offer reduced rates for off-peak hours. Delay start also helps avoid a run on the household's supply of hot water during morning and evening meal preparation and bathing.
- Automatic dishwashing is more water and energy efficient than doing hand washing, so use your dishwasher regularly.

Remember, you save money when you save energy because you lower your electric bills!