

Replacing older home appliances is the most practical and effective step a homeowner can take to reduce energy consumption. Read below to find out exactly how much energy you can save by replacing certain major appliances in your home.

- Replacing an eight year old refrigerator, dishwasher and clothes washer with new appliances of average efficiency will save consumers about \$95.00 per year in energy bills.
- Clothes washers show a 64% decrease in energy consumption per unit since 2000, while tub capacity increased by 9%. Replacing an eight year old clothes washer will save more than \$60.00 in electricity costs and nearly 5,000 gallons of water per year.
- The average refrigerator made in 2008 consumed 3% less energy than those made in the previous year. In fact, the average refrigerator sold today uses less energy than a 60 watt light bulb that is left on 24 hours a day.

Here are some more easy tips that can lead to additional energy savings:

- If you are replacing your refrigerator, do not use the old refrigerator as a second refrigerator. This will not yield energy savings. Properly recycle the appliance. To find recycling options in your area, call 1-800-YES-1-CAN.
- Allow hot foods to cool before placing them in the refrigerator; and always cover foods that may release moisture in the refrigerator.
- Limit opening the refrigerator and freezer doors. Label foods or use clear food storage bags to easily identify foods.
- Scrape, but do not pre-rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher. Dishwashers do a great job of cleaning soiled dishes.
- Take advantage of your dishwasher's "eco" option that reduces water use, or use a no-heat air dry feature.
- Use load size settings- if you are washing a small load of clothing, be sure to change the load setting. Use cold water settings whenever possible.
- Always clean the lint filter on the clothes dryer after each use. A clogged filter will reduce dryer performance.

Top five appliances that can help you save money:

- **Coffeemakers**—Save on pricy coffeehouse blends by brewing your morning cup at home. Resisting a three dollar cup of coffee will save you nearly \$1,000 per year!
- **Freezers**—Stock up on frozen foods when they are on sale. In 2008, shipments of home freezers were up five percent as consumers started to realize the savings in stocking up on frozen sale items. Also, remember to shop for an ENERGY STAR freezer to save even more on energy costs.
- **Water filters**—Use a water filtration system in your refrigerator instead of buying bottled water. This practice will save you money, and will help the environment by reducing the number of plastic bottles that clog landfills.

- **Portable electric heaters**—Turn down the heat and use portable heaters in rooms that are used frequently. Keeping the thermostat down will save money while portable heaters provide direct and quick warmth.
- **Cook at home**—An electric oven turned on for 1 hour on 350°F only uses 2kWh of electricity, costing just 24 cents. The cost of dining out can add up quickly. Try cooking at home for a low-cost meal.