



Appliances



Standing in the home appliances shop, you cast your eye over the sleek lines of refrigerators, freezers, washing machines and dishwashers. You're about to make a big investment and you don't want to spend more than you have to.

Your eye takes in the prices and the energy and water efficiency labels, and you start to weigh up your options, with your budget firmly in mind. And this is when you have to remember that every appliance has two price tags. The first is the purchase cost of the appliance, and the second is the ongoing running cost of the appliance. It stands to reason that an energy and water efficient appliance that saves you hundreds of dollars each year on bills won't take long to pay for its premium in price.

The Federal Government has developed a website that can help you to compare the energy efficiency and star ratings of a range of appliances. It even calculates the energy cost of each appliance over many years to help you consider longer term savings compared to upfront costs. <http://www.energyrating.gov.au/appsearch/default.asp>

Energy Rating - www.energyrating.gov.au

The simple and reliable way to make a smart choice on your next appliance is to look at the energy label. The label can be found on all refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, dish washers, clothes dryers, air conditioners and televisions, and gives a star rating between one and six stars. The greater the number of stars, the higher the efficiency. Total energy consumption in kilowatt-hours per year is also shown. If two suitable appliances have the same star rating, choose the one with the lower energy consumption.

Energy Star Logo - www.energystar.gov.au

Home entertainment and office equipment, such as computers, DVD and CD players are not currently covered by the energy rating scheme. However, if they have the Energy Star® logo, you know that they have greater 'standby' efficiency. Standby power is the electricity used when appliances aren't fully switched off, such as when the TV is turned off with the remote control. Appliances can use much more energy over a year in standby than in actual operation and can account for up to 12 per cent of a household's electricity use.

An Energy Star® appliance will automatically switch into 'sleep' mode if not being used, and/or will reduce the amount of power used when in 'standby' mode. Although the standard only applies to energy used during standby and not operation, Energy Star® appliances are often more efficient in operation too. As the Energy Star® function is not always enabled on new appliances, ask your retailer to enable it or follow the directions in the manual.

Gas Energy Rating - www.energyrating.gov.au/gas.html

Gas energy labels can also be found on gas space heaters, gas ducted heaters and gas water heaters (both storage and instantaneous). Gas energy labels are similar in format to those found on electrical appliances, except they are blue in colour and with annual energy shown in MJ (3.6MJ=1kWh). Once again the more stars the better!

Australian Gas Association - www.aga.asn.au



Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) rating - www.waterrating.gov.au

The Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) shows the consumption of water by appliances. The label gives products and appliances a star rating from one to six and also provides a number that shows the comparative water consumption in litres. The labels will be on the product or packaging to allow you to compare when you are purchasing. The WELS website contains a searchable database of a range of products including washing machines, dishwashers, flow controllers, showers, taps and toilets.

resourceSmart - www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/documents/SRI_labelling.pdf



Fridge & Freezers



When looking for a new fridge make sure you purchase one that is the right size for your needs.

Fridges can be big consumers of energy so you do not want a big fridge that spends its time cooling down empty space or that you have such a small fridge you need a second fridge.

If you have a second fridge, consider how often your 'drinks fridge' is really used. Turn it on only when you need it.

When building a new home consider where the fridge will be placed.

Locate fridges and freezers in cool spots, away from direct sun and other heat sources such as stoves.

Also provide at least 50mm of space at the top, back and sides to improve ventilation and let your fridge work at its best.

More info

resourceSmart - www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/documents/SRI_dishwashers.pdf

Choice - www.choice.com.au

LivingGreener - www.livinggreener.gov.au/take-action/save-energy/buy-energy-efficient-appliances

SUPPLIERS

For a comprehensive list of models available and rated in Australia is available, search for energy performance www.energyrating.gov.au/appsearch/refrig_srch.asp

Elcold - www.elcold.com

Miele - www.miele.com.au



Washing machines and dryers

Tips to save water and energy



Wash in cold water

While some clothes need to be washed in hot water, eg, nappies or clothes with oily stains, most clothes can effectively be washed in cold. Washing clothes in cold water saves energy.

Hang it up

Avoid using electric clothes dryers. Use the natural power of the sun to dry your washing by placing your clothes outside on a clothes line. During wet weather use a clothes rack inside your house.

Wash a full load

Always make sure you wash a full load of clothes. Not only will you save water but the less you use the washing machine the more energy you save.

Buy detergents made from biodegradable substances and are low in sodium and phosphorus

Biodegradable detergents are a safer option for the environment. If you are using greywater for your garden be careful that you are not placing sodium and phosphorus into your soil.

Use your washing water on the garden

Providing you use biodegradable detergents, you can run a diverter hose, available from hardware stores, straight from your washing machine onto the garden.

Use rainwater and/or treated greywater

When building ensure your plumbing allows for the use of rainwater or treated greywater in the laundry.

More info

resourceSmart - www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/documents/SRI_washing_machines.pdf

Choice - www.choice.com.au

SUPPLIERS

For a comprehensive list of clothes dryer suppliers, search for energy performance:

www.energyrating.gov.au/appsearch/cdryers_srch.asp

For a comprehensive list of clothes washer suppliers, search for energy performance:

www.energyrating.gov.au/appsearch/cwashers_srch.asp

Asko - www.asko.com.au

Bosch - www.boschappliances.com.au

Electrolux - www.electrolux.com.au

Kleenmaid - www.kleenmaid.com.au

Miele - www.miele.com.au

V-zug - www.vzug.com.au



TVs, DVDs & entertainment equipment

Tips to save energy

Turn appliances off at the power point when not in use

Many appliances such as DVD players, TVs, stereos and computers use electricity called 'standby power' when they are not being used, if they are left switched on at the power point.

Standby power accounts for as much as 10% of household energy bills.

Turn off appliances at the power point.

To make things easier, place multiple appliances on a single or multiple switch powerboard to avoid hard-to-reach spots and reduce the number of switches to flick.



Turn off computer monitors

Set your computer to enter 'sleep' mode after a certain period of inactivity and turn the computer monitor off when you're not using it, even for a short time.

Choose an LED backlit LCD monitor

Choose an LED backlit LCD as they generally use less energy.

Don't super-size your telly

A simple rule of thumb is the bigger the TV, the more energy it will use. Indeed, some larger TV models use more energy to run than a standard-sized fridge.

More info

resourceSmart - www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_households/appliances_1873.html

Choice - www.choice.com.au/

SUPPLIERS

For a comprehensive list of television suppliers is available, search for energy performance:
www.energyrating.gov.au/appsearch/tv_srch.asp

Ekin - www.ekin.com.au

LG - www.lg.com/au/index.jsp

Pangoo - www.pangoo.com.au

Sharp - www.sharp.net.au

Sony - www.sony.com.au

TCL - www.tclelectronics.com.au

