



Energy Efficient Appliances

Introduction

Careful selection of your next appliance will not only provide you with years of reliable service and convenience but can also save you money and have fewer negative impacts on the environment. Appliances account for one-fifth of the energy consumption in a typical American household. Modern homes have considerably more appliances than ever. To address the increasing use of energy by home appliances the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have partnered with appliance manufacturers to steadily increase the federal minimum energy efficiency standards and promote more energy efficient appliances through their ENERGY STAR® Program. New home appliances are already considerably more energy efficient than their earlier counterparts. For example a new refrigerator consumes less than half of the electricity required to operate the same size model manufactured ten years ago.

To add to those savings, ENERGY STAR® labeled appliances are among the most energy efficient appliances available on the market and provide you the same function and convenience of standard appliances with the added benefits of costing less to operate and reducing environmental impacts by minimizing energy consumption. ENERGY STAR® labeled home electronics and office equipment save energy through more efficient power management features such as consuming less power while “off” or going into a “sleep” mode while not in use.

Green Building Benefits

Saves Energy and Natural Resources

Smart shoppers should look for the ENERGY STAR® logos to ensure energy savings and reduce monthly utility bills. ENERGY STAR® dishwashers and clothes washers achieve the majority of their energy savings by using less hot water.

Promotes Cleaner Air

Energy efficient appliances reduce electric use at the point of consumption. Due to the inefficiency of energy production and transmission, the small amount of electricity that is saved at the home reduces a larger amount of power needed to be produced at the power plant thus reducing air pollution associated with the production of electricity. The cumulative effect of homeowners switching just half of their electronics to ENERGY STAR® labeled models is equivalent to removing 1 million cars off the road in terms of emissions reductions.

Affordability

ENERGY STAR® labeled appliances are readily available at nearly every price point, making the selection of efficient appliances easy and affordable for every household. There are two cost considerations when selecting a new home appliance. The purchasing price is the cost most homeowners deliberate over the most; however, the hidden costs of maintenance and operation often exceed the initial cost. When you consider the typical life of a major home appliance is 15 years, these hidden costs add up to considerable savings.

Green vs. Conventional

ENERGY STAR® Labeled Appliances	Standard Appliances
Refrigerators use 15% less energy	Meet federal minimum standards
Dishwashers use 25% less energy	Meet federal minimum standards
Clotheswashers use 50% less water and electricity	Meet federal minimum standards
Dehumidifiers use 10-23% less energy	Meet federal minimum standards
Window Air Conditioners use 10% less energy	Meet federal minimum standards
Ceiling Fans use 10% less energy	Meet federal minimum standards
Home electronics use 20-80% less energy	Meet federal minimum standards

Installation

Energy efficient appliances are installed in the same manner as conventional appliances.

Operation and Maintenance

Some models may require different cleaning or detergents, such as manufacturers of front-loading clothes washers who recommend using a laundry detergent that does not create a lot of suds. However, most energy efficient appliances do not require additional or special care in comparison to standard models. You should always consult your owner's manual when learning to operate any new home appliance.

Bay Area Suppliers

Energy efficient appliances are available from almost every retail outlet that sells appliances. Ask your retailer for ENERGY STAR[®] labeled appliances and compare the federal Energy Guide labels for utility costs.

- Search the **Materials Database** from Bay Area Build It Green to find local suppliers and services: www.build-green.org

For More Information

- ENERGY STAR[®]: www.energystar.gov This EPA/DOE program provides good information and lists appliances that qualify for the ENERGY STAR[®] logo.
- **American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE):** <http://www.aceee.org/consumer/consumer.htm> lists the most efficient home appliances.
- **Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings:** <http://www.aceee.org/consumerguide/index.htm> from ACEEE, helps consumers find the most efficient home appliances and how to use them effectively.
- For more information about Green Building, visit our website at: www.greenaffordablehousing.org or call Bruce Mast at 510-271-4785.

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