



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® appliances are among the most energy-efficient models available. They provide the function and convenience of standard appliances while additionally decreasing operating costs and reducing the environmental impacts associated with 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, a small amount of electricity saved at the home reduces by a larger amount the source power production requirements at the power plant, thus reducing air pollution and resource consumption associated with the production of electricity. In terms of emissions reductions, the cumulative effect of homeowners switching just half of their electronics to Energy Star® labeled models is equivalent to taking 1 million cars off the road.

Affordability

Energy Star® labeled appliances are readily available at nearly every price point, making the selection of efficient appliances easy and affordable for all households. 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, reduction of these hidden costs through selection of an Energy Star® model can add up to considerable savings.

Operation and Maintenance

Some models may require different cleaning methods or products than the standard options; for example, manufacturer’s of front-loading clothes washers 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. Always consult the owner’s manual when learning to operate any new home appliance.



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
Clothes washers 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.

Disclaimer

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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 Build It Green's **AccessGreen Directory** to find local suppliers and services: www.builditgreen.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)**: provides information about and lists of the most efficient home appliances: www.aceee.org/consumer/consumer.htm
- **Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings**: book from ACEEE that helps consumers find and use effectively the most efficient home appliances: www.aceee.org/consumerguide/index.htm