



7. Choosing appliances and the energy star rating system

The efficiency of electrical appliances is always improving. Replacing old equipment that has outlived its usefulness with newer, energy efficient appliances can save you money.

Energy ratings

Energy rating labels are an Australian Government requirement on new appliances. Star ratings help you choose energy efficient appliances. The greater the number of stars on the label the more efficient and cheap it will be to run.

Savings can be made

Even if you choose the most expensive and efficient appliance to replace your old one, over time the money you save on running the new appliance will cover how much you paid for it. These savings can be achieved in a reasonable period of time; particularly if you are replacing old window-mounted air conditioning units or refrigerators or some entertainment equipment such as TVs.

Fridges consume a lot of energy because they are on all the time. Hot water services and space heating units also consume a big proportion of the total energy used in a centre.

Considering the costs

Make sure you consider both the purchase and the running costs in order to make the best decision.

Running costs

To calculate running costs, you need to know what your energy costs are. Check the tariff amounts listed on your gas / electricity bill.

Then multiply your tariff amount by the likely amount of energy your new appliance will use each year over its lifetime (at least 10 years).

The more stars the more energy efficient

ENERGY RATING

A joint government and industry program
Kustom Kooler refrigerator Model 380

Energy consumption
530
kWh per year

When tested in accordance with AS/NZS 4474.2.
Actual energy use and running costs will depend on how you use the appliance.

Compare all models at www.energyrating.gov.au

Rating range examples

- TVs, refrigerators/freezers and air conditioners are rated from 1–10 stars.
- Dishwashers, washing machines and dryers are rated from 1–6 stars (with the first two rated by stars for water efficiency).

Quick tips

- Check standby power usage.
- Put up signs that recommend the most efficient settings.
- Turn off appliances not in use.
- Downsize or get rid of appliances that are not used much.
- Choose quality appliances that are efficient and will last.
- Avoid inefficient or poor quality appliances.
- Compare prices online, then approach a local retailer for a discount.
- Seek out a small grant to improve your energy efficiency.

Further resources

Check out A Greenhouse Around the Corner website:

www.agreenhouse.net.au/helpful-resources

Related fact sheets

Check out the Greenhouse Around the Corner website:

Fact sheet 3: The economics of energy efficiency

For more fact sheets, go to A Greenhouse Around the Corner website:

www.agreenhouse.net.au/fact-sheets



CHECK POINTS

- Conduct an equipment assessment.
- List what you have, how often it is used and if it is the right size or type for your needs.
- Check the age of an appliance, this should be marked somewhere on the outside of the unit.
- Mark the appliances that will need to be replaced in the next few years.
- Use the Internet to compare the cost and efficiencies of different appliance brands and models.
- Check energy ratings on appliances.
- Choose appliances that are the right size for your centre's needs.

