



HELPS
Home Energy Loss
Prevention Services

Tips for Lowering Your Refrigerator Energy Use

Do:

- Keep the refrigerator at 37° - 40° F. Check it with a thermometer to be sure.
- Keep the freezer at 0° - 5° F.
- Replace door gaskets to both compartments if they do not seal tightly. To test for tightness, place a dollar bill between the refrigerator and the door, and then close the door. Pull the bill out. If it was easy, replace the gaskets.
- Turn off the “butter conditioner” if you have this option. It is a small electric heater.
- Use the Energy Saver Switch. It limits the operation of another small electric heater that prevents condensation on the outside of the refrigerator.
- Regularly brush or vacuum the coils on the back or bottom of the refrigerator. Dirty coils prevent heat from being removed effectively and cause the cooling equipment to operate longer and more often.
- Give the refrigerator adequate clearance from walls and cabinets for improved airflow around the coils.
- Defrost your refrigerator whenever more than ¼ inch of ice is on the inside surface.
- Purchase a new EnergyStar refrigerator if your existing one is more than 15 years old. You’ll save more in the annual cost of operation, over the life of the refrigerator, than you pay up front.

Don't:

- Crowd food items. Too many obstruct the air circulation inside the refrigerator.
- Place the refrigerator in direct sunlight.
- Enclose refrigerator in cabinets or against walls.
- Keep your old refrigerator when purchasing a new one. A 15-year-old refrigerator could cost \$100 to \$150 per year.



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