

Electric Conservation Tips

Ten percent of the average US household's electric use is caused by unused electronics that are plugged into the wall.

LIGHTING AND APPLIANCES -

- A compact fluorescent light bulb uses 75 percent less energy than a regular bulb – and it can last up to four years.
- If left on constantly, an LED light could last for up to 50,000 hours, or 6 years, which is 50 times longer than a regular 60-watt incandescent bulb.
- Bathroom vanity lights are one of the most used fixtures in the average home. Use energy-efficient lighting, which can provide bright, warm light while using less energy and generating less heat than standard bulbs.
- Choose light colors for furniture. Light colors reflect light. Dark colors absorb light and require higher bulb wattages.
- Clean lighting fixtures regularly. Dust on lamps, reflectors and light bulbs impair lighting efficiency.

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS -

- If your family has a lot of cell phones or other portable electronics that require regular charging, establish a charging station situated along a power strip. This way all chargers and batteries can be easily found in the same spot, and, when fully charged, you can energy efficiently switch off the power, avoiding unnecessary vampire electric leakage.
- Unplug infrequently or seasonally used power supplies.
- Consolidate multiple power supplies on a single power strip so that the power can be turned off easily with one switch.
- When leaving for extended time from home, unplug TV's, cable boxes, PC's and other devices that won't be in use while you are away.
- Buy ENERGY STAR®-labeled electronics. Make sure you are using the power management or "sleep" feature on ENERGY STAR® qualified home office equipment (PC, fax, printer, scanner) so that they automatically power down when not in use to save up to \$70 annually in electricity bills and improve product longevity.
- An ENERGY STAR computer uses 70% less electricity than computers without this designation. If left inactive, ENERGY STAR computers enter a low-power mode and use 15 watts or less. Spending a large portion of time in low-power mode not only saves energy, but helps equipment run cooler and last longer.

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS (cont.)-

- Configure your computer to "hibernate" automatically after 30 minutes or so of inactivity. The "hibernate mode" turns the computer off in a way that doesn't require you to reload everything when you switch it back on. Allowing your computer to hibernate saves energy and is more time-efficient than shutting down and restarting your computer from scratch.
- Turn off your computer, monitor and laptop at night and weekends. Turning them on and off doesn't shorten the lifetime of present-day computers.
- Iron fabrics that require a cooler iron first and work up to those requiring higher heat. An iron heats faster than it cools, so it's quicker to go from low to high than the reverse. You'll use less energy. Turn off the iron a few minutes before you finish ironing and complete the rest of your clothes with the heat remaining in the iron.
- Dry your hair with a towel instead of blow drying it. Many hair dryers consume as much energy as an electric toaster.