9| HIGH-EFFICIENCY APPLIANCES

EDMONTON'S GREEN HOME GUIDE

Your Kitchen: The Source for up to 40% of Your Energy Bill

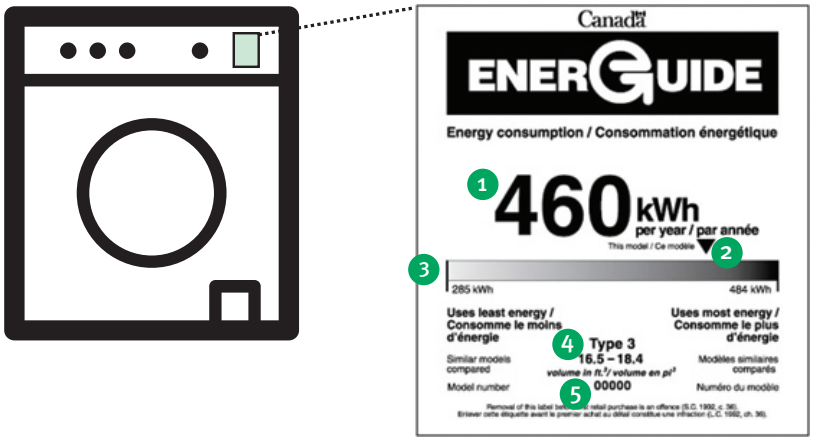
The average kitchen accounts for 20 to 40% of a home's total energy bill. If your refrigerator and dishwasher are more than 10 years old, you can most likely reduce your utility bills by replacing these appliances with high-efficiency models. There's an initial investment to upgrade old appliances, but chances are you'll appreciate the superior performance and lower utility bills. Be sure to dispose of your old appliances properly at your local Eco Station. Learn more at: edmonton.ca/ecostations

Energy-Efficient Appliances have the ENERGY STAR Label

» An ENERGY STAR label means that a product meets stringent energy requirements.

» Ovens and ranges aren't included in the ENERGY STAR program, given the inherent inefficiency of these appliances. It's estimated that only 6% of the energy used to power an oven is absorbed by the food!

» To find the most energy-efficient electric appliances, look for the ENERGY STAR label at your retailer. More ENERGY STAR information is available from Natural Resources Canada at: nrcan.gc.ca/energy/products/energystar/why-buy/13631



1. Average annual energy consumption of the appliance in kilowatt hours (kWh)
2. Energy efficiency of the appliance relative to similar models
3. Annual energy consumption range for models of this type and size
4. Type and size of the model
5. Model Number

Compare the EnerGuide Labels

Federal law requires that the EnerGuide label be placed on all new electrical appliances manufactured in or imported into Canada, and that the label indicate the amount of electricity used by that appliance. Although the EnerGuide label shows the energy efficiency of the appliance relative to similar models, you can easily compare EnerGuide ratings between competing appliances. The rating is the total annual energy the appliance will consume yearly under average operation.

Quick Math: Calculate Operation Cost of Energy-Efficient Appliances

Surprisingly, energy-efficient appliances aren't much more expensive than regular appliances. When you add up your monthly energy savings, you may find that you can pay back the extra amount you paid for your energy-efficient appliance in less than 1 year. To determine how much your energy-efficient appliance costs to operate, multiply the annual kilowatt hours (kWh) on the EnerGuide label by $0.10.

GREEN FACTS AND TIPS: APPLIANCE EFFICIENCY

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To maximize your savings, select the appliance size that best suits your needs.

Dishwashers

80% of the energy used by a dishwasher goes towards water heating; the rest runs the motor and the fan.

Compact dishwashers use less water and energy per wash, but if you have to use it more than once a day, it's likely more efficient to use a standard size.

Dishwashers and refrigerators operate most efficiently when they're full. The dishwasher uses the same amount of water whether half full or completely full, and more items in a fridge help to keep the internal temperature cool.

Don't position your dishwasher next to the refrigerator. The heat produced by the dishwasher causes your refrigerator to work harder.

Refrigerators

The style of refrigerator can affect energy use. In general, models with the freezer on the top or bottom use up to 25% less energy than comparable side-by-side refrigerator/freezer models. Remember, if you buy a new fridge and you keep using your old one as a second refrigerator in the basement or garage, you will not see these energy savings!

Oven Ranges and Hoods

The most energy efficient cooking system is an induction range, which heats only the pot, combined with a recirculating, or ductless, range hood and an HRV exhaust intake in the kitchen that handles the smoke and odours.

Clothes Dryers

Clothes dryers use a lot of energy so the opportunity for energy savings is large. A typical system simply directs the air outside via the dryer exhaust. New technology includes condensing dryers and heat pump dryers.

A condensing dryer recovers much of the waste energy from the hot, humid air, drains the excess moisture away and funnels the remaining exhaust air into an adjacent space where it can offset heating energy for most of the year in our climate.

A heat pump dryer does not require a vent; instead, the pump reuses the heated air and through condensation, funnels the moisture into a drain or collection tank. This system offers more than double the energy efficiency compared to a conventional electric dryer.