

# Refrigerators

Your refrigerator can make a difference in your energy bills.

## Wise-use tips

- Keep temperature of fresh food section between 35 and 40 degrees; freezer at 0 to 5 degrees.
- One larger refrigerator uses less energy than two smaller units.
- Locate away from heat sources such as the oven or a heat register. Avoid direct sunlight.
- Allow at least 2 inches of clearance around the refrigerator for air circulation and heat dispersal.
- Don't place in an unheated garage. Poor temperature and humidity control can spoil food.
- If you have an **anti-sweat switch** use it only when condensation forms near door seals. Some older refrigerators have an anti-sweat switch to prevent moisture from forming on the outside of the refrigerator during hot, humid weather. The switch heats the area around the door seals to prevent condensation.

Turn the switch to the off (saves power) position in the fall to save energy. Turn the switch to the on (reduces exterior moisture) position in the summer if moisture appears around the door seals.

## Buying tips

- Look for the ENERGY STAR® label.
- Use yellow EnergyGuide labels to compare.
  - Side-by-sides generally use more electricity.
  - Through-the-door dispensers and automatic ice makers increase electric use.
- Don't buy a refrigerator bigger than you need.



## How much can a new refrigerator save me?

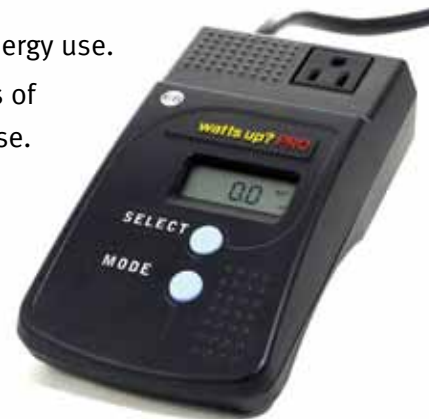
Compared to a refrigerator built before 1990, a new refrigerator will save about \$96 - \$120 per year in electricity costs.

## Want to know how much your current refrigerator costs to run?

Check out or reserve a portable energy meter from any public library in the South Central Library System.

Portable energy meters:

- Are accurate and easy to use.
- Come with instructions and work sheets.
- Can pinpoint high-energy use.
- Can evaluate savings of reduced appliance use.
- Will allow you to compare energy costs of appliances.



## Resources

### ENERGY STAR®

[www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=refrig.pr\\_refrigerators](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=refrig.pr_refrigerators)

### Home Energy magazine article on when to replace refrigerators

[homeenergy.org/hewebsite/consumerinfo/refrigeration2/index.html](http://homeenergy.org/hewebsite/consumerinfo/refrigeration2/index.html)

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## Refrigerators – Cost of Operation

| Type/Year   | kWh/Month | Estimated Monthly Cost<br>at \$.130/kWh |
|---|-----------|---|
| <b>Top Freezer</b> (Bottom freezer models use about the same amount.)<br>18.5 to 20.4 cubic foot  |           |   |
| July 2001 or newer - ENERGY STAR models   | 37        | \$4.81                                  |
| 1993 to June 2001   | 58        | \$7.54                                  |
| 1990 to 1993  | 82        | \$10.66                                 |
| Older than 1990   | 100       | \$13.00                                 |
| <b>Side-by-Side</b><br>21.5 to 22.4 cubic foot  |           |   |
| July 2001 or newer - ENERGY STAR models   | 51        | \$6.63                                  |
| 1993 to June 2001   | 71        | \$9.23                                  |
| 1990 to 1993  | 110       | \$14.30                                 |
| Older than 1990   | 135       | \$17.55                                 |
| <p><b>Ice Makers</b> will increase operating cost by 15% to 20%.<br/>Through-the-door ice and water dispensers will add another 10% to 15% to operating costs. Each cubic foot larger adds about 25 kWh per year.</p> |           |   |

