

# What Energy Guides Tell Us About Our APPLIANCES

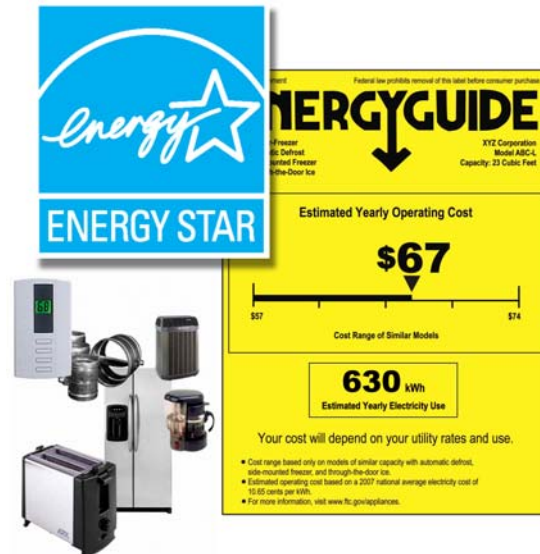
Do Energy Guides really save us money? The government would want us to believe that it does. Let's look at the actual label of a washing machine. The first thing that we see is that the comparison of our current appliance electricity cost is based on the national average of kWh as determined each year. That's about 10.65 cents for 2007.

The cost of electricity in kWh doesn't take into consideration local or regional electricity costs which may vary from the national average. The cost has since increased and in some areas is extremely steep in cost per kWh. So using the cost sample doesn't actually say what your particular appliance efficiency is.

What does help is the estimated kWh used by the appliance. The appliance, a washing machine in this example, will approximately use the amount of electricity listed on an annually basis if you do 5 loads per week, every week. In a typical home, five loads may be normal. You can then use local costs to help determine an approximate annual cost to operate your appliance.

The Energy Guide is basically an averaging "guide." Most consumers buy appliances based on other things such as appeal or features and functions. If it is categorized as an energy saver, great!

***The real energy saver is the way the appliance is used to minimize energy consumption.***



In the absence of any criteria, the guide is a better choice for energy conscious consumers.

***However, once the appliance is bought and being used, how does the appliance owner know if the savings predicted by the guide are still effective?***

They don't. Only by measuring the use on a continuous basis can anyone know how much benefits in savings that particular appliance really provides.

***Our HEMS Technology home system of measuring kWh per appliance, continuously, provides the best option for keeping tabs on appliances' cumulative energy savings and energy efficiency.***



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