

ENERGY WISE

Your refrigerator is probably the second largest energy user in your home.

Every household needs a refrigerator, but it's important to know that after electric water heating, your refrigerator can be the second largest energy user in your home accounting for as much as \$200 of your annual KIUC bill.

If you have a second refrigerator

It's common for people to relocate the "old" refrigerator to the carport after a new one is purchased, but if your second refrigerator is at or past its working life of 20 years, you can save big money by simply pulling the plug.



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A Short History of Refrigerators...

Electric refrigerators only became common in American homes during the 1950s. They were small with thick, insulated outer walls. When new, these appliances used very little energy. The abundance of inexpensive energy in the 1960s led to refrigerator designs that were larger and "sleeker," with automatic defrost and other features that increased energy consumption considerably. In the '70's, manufacturers experimented with "side by side" models which placed the freezer next to the refrigerator, cold water dispensers, ice makers and

other versatile but energy inefficient features. In 1987, in an effort to help consumers deal with escalating energy costs, the government established minimum efficiency standards to eliminate the production of energy guzzling refrigerators.

The most stringent standards went into effect in January, 1993.



These standards limit the amount of energy a new refrigerator can use, based on its volume and features. Surely refrigerators will continue to use less energy as time goes on, but a refrigerator produced in 1993 will use half of the energy as one produced in the '70's.



**Kaua'i Island
Utility Cooperative**

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What this means to you

If you have one or more refrigerators manufactured before 1987 you could be spending two to three times the amount of money that you need to. By disposing of your inefficient refrigerators, you can cut energy costs, save money, and benefit the environment.

Proper disposal of refrigerators

The Federal Government has mandated that materials in a refrigerator harmful to the environment must be removed prior to the placement of the refrigerator in a landfill. Contact the Kauai County Solid Waste Disposal Office about the safe disposal of refrigerators on Kauai.

An energy guide label estimating operating costs and energy efficiency comes with each refrigerator. The label includes: estimated yearly energy cost; a range of estimated energy costs for competing models; a statement that energy costs vary with local rates; a table of energy costs for a range of utility rates.

Ask your salesperson to show you how you can use the energy guide label to compute the payback time for refrigerators. Consult your most recent KIUC bill for current electric rates.

SHOPPING FOR A NEW REFRIGERATOR

Refrigerator-Freezer
Capacity: 20.6 Cubic Feet
Type of Defrost: Full Automatic

ENERGYGUIDE

Estimates on the scale are based on a national average electric rate of 8.26¢ per kilowatt hour. Only models with 20.8 to 22.4 cubic feet are compared in the scale.

Model with lowest energy cost \$60
▼ THIS MODEL
▼ Model with highest energy cost \$108

Estimated yearly energy cost
Your cost will vary depending on your local energy rate and how you use the product. This energy cost is based on U.S. Government standard tests.
How much will this model cost you to run yearly?

Yearly Cost	
Estimated yearly cost (shown below)	
Cost per kilowatt hour	\$ 15
2¢	30
4¢	45
6¢	60
8¢	74
10¢	89
12¢	

Ask your salesperson or local utility for the energy rate (cost per kilowatt hour) in your area.

Important
Use of this label before consumer purchase is a violation of federal law (16207326P002 U.S.C. 6302) Part No. SR1181

You can save money by using these energy wise tips.

Give the refrigerator room to breathe.

Leave at least four inches of space behind coils and room around and above the refrigerator. The more freely air can circulate, the better coils can radiate heat.

Check the door gaskets.
Make sure there are no tears, holes or gaps and that the seal is good all the way around when the door is closed.

Place frozen foods in the refrigerator to defrost.

The food will absorb heat as it defrosts and lessen the load on your refrigerator's cooling system.

Check your thermostat.

Setting it lower than necessary wastes electricity. Your freezer should be between 0 degrees and 5 degrees F, your cooler 37 degrees to 42 degrees F.

Don't put hot foods directly into the refrigerator.

Energy is wasted when your unit must stay on longer to remove the heat. Let food cool a bit by sitting out at room temperature first.

Keep it defrosted.

If you let ice build up in your freezer, it has to work harder to keep things cool. The more ice there is, the harder your refrigerator has to work.

Want more information?

For a more detailed description of energy saving measures, call KIUC's energy specialists at 246-8284 or 246-8282.



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