Getting the best buy

Buying the least expensive appliance may not save you the most money in the long run. There are three cost components to home appliances: the initial purchase price, the costs of repairs and maintenance, and the cost to operate the appliance.

To determine the cost over the lifetime of the appliance, you have to look at all the costs. The appliance with the lowest purchase price, or even the one with the best repair record, may not be the least expensive to operate.

The Federal Trade Commission requires appliance manufacturers to put labels on refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, water heaters, furnaces, boilers, central air conditioners, room air conditioners, heat pumps and pool heaters. These labels compare energy use and estimates of utility costs. These are important comparisons when deciding which model to buy.

Estimated Cost of Operating

APPLIANCE	YEARLY COST	
	1972 (or older)	Today
Refrigerator	$132	$102
Freezer	$111	$ 73
Dishwasher	$109	$ 66
Clothes Washer	$113	$ 77
Clothes Dryer	$ 77	$ 44
Room Air Conditioner	$ 98	$ 57

Average Life Expectancy Of New Appliances

APPLIANCE	EXPECTED LIFETIME (Years)
Refrigerators and Refrigerator/Freezers	15
Freezers	15
Dishwashers	11
Clothes Washers	11
Room Air Conditioners	11
Furnaces	20

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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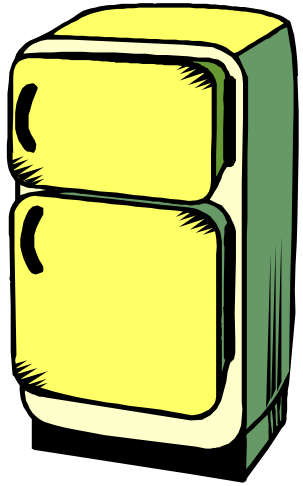
Energy Efficient Appliances

And Understanding Energy Guides



Public Utilities Commission

Reading the Energy Guide Label

Some appliances feature the EnergyStar logo, which means that the appliance is significantly more energy efficient than the average comparable model.

Type of appliance and capacity.

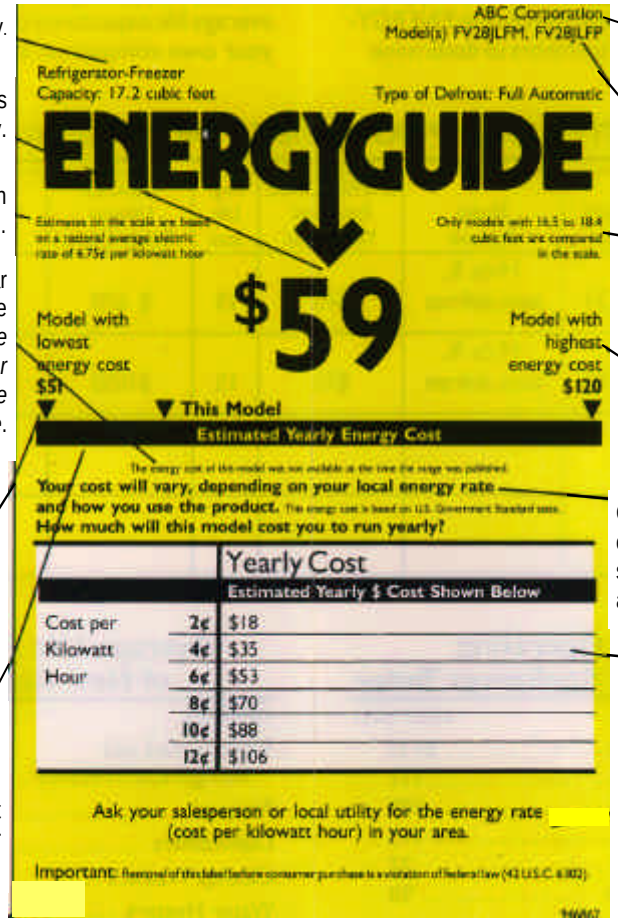
Estimated annual operating costs for this model only.

National average costs for electricity upon which the estimated annual energy cost figure is based.

Where the estimated annual cost of this particular model falls in comparison to other models in this size range. *Because of recent improvements in appliance efficiency, some models may actually have a lower energy cost than the lowest energy cost given in the range.*

Estimated annual operating cost for the model in this size range that costs ***least*** to operate.

Scale showing lowest and highest operating costs for models within this size range. These models represent different brands, not just those of the company listed in the upper right-hand corner.



Name of manufacturer of the appliance

All model numbers are listed if the label applies to more than one model.

All brands and models compared in this scale on this label fall within this capacity range.

Estimated annual operating cost for the model in this size range that costs ***most*** to operate.

Cautions that the customer cost will not necessarily be the same as the cost figure given above.

A grid to help determine more closely the customer's operating cost based on local utility rates and use habits.

- The more energy efficient an appliance is, the less it costs to run, and utility bills are lower.
- All major home appliances must meet energy conservation standards set by the U S Department of Energy. But many appliances beat the standard, use even less energy and cost less to run.
- Most of the efficiency differences are on the inside – in the motors, compressors, pumps, valves, gaskets, and seals, or in electric sensors that make appliances "smarter." These features can mean a big difference in your monthly utility bills.

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