

Your appliances running costs

Keeping electricity costs under control can be challenging at times, particularly in the Northern Territory where extreme variations in climate impact greatly on our lifestyle and the way we use our appliances.

Knowing the running cost of your appliances and where you can lower your energy use is one step toward controlling your energy costs.

The following guide gives an estimate of usage and running costs for some of the most common household appliances.

		SIZE	AVERAGE USE	ESTIMATED COSTS	
				PER USE	PER QUARTER
	Air conditioner	Medium room aircon	12 hours/day	\$1.22	\$111
		Large room aircon		\$2.30	\$209
	Television	50" LCD (LED)	4 hours/day	\$0.04	\$3.50
	Dishwasher	10 place setting – normal program	7 loads/week	\$1.30	\$17
	Clothes dryer	7Kg capacity	5 loads/week	\$3.80	\$50
	Heater	Small wall heater	5 hours/day	\$0.40	\$38
		Medium split system		\$0.59	\$54
	Hot water	Small electric system	4.9 kWh/day	\$1.24	\$114
		Solar with electric booster	4.6 kWh/day	\$1.17	\$107

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	SIZE	AVERAGE USE	ESTIMATED COSTS	
			PER USE	PER QUARTER
 Ceiling fan	Standard ceiling fan	12 hours/day	\$0.25	\$22
 Lighting	Compact Fluoro lights	10 bulbs	\$0.28	\$25
	LED lights	6 hours/day	\$0.15	\$14
 Spa bath	Standard size	4 hours/week	\$1.50	\$20
 Pool pump	1.2kW pump	10 hours/day	\$3.06	\$279
 Washing machine	7.5Kg front loader	5 loads/week	\$1	\$13.50
 Refrigerator	Fridge freezer 400L	Compressor running	\$0.24	\$21.60
	Side by side fridge freezer	30% of the day	\$0.43	\$39

Disclaimer: Appliances data based on averages and taken from a number of sources. Costs quoted are based on electricity tariffs effective 1 July 2017. Actual costs may vary depending on your circumstances. Domestic flat rate \$0.2567 per kilowatt hour.

How to calculate running costs

This is a simple way to calculate how much your appliances are costing you to run:

- Find the input power in watts.** This is usually printed on a label attached to the appliance or in the user manual. Appliances with thermostats, like air conditioners and fridges, don't use their full wattage all the time. To work out how much power they are likely to consume, take one third of the wattage and use this number for the next step.
- Multiply the input power by the average number of hours the appliance is used** over the period you want to check. Then divide by 1000 to find out the number of kilowatt hours your appliance is using.
- Multiply the number of kilowatt hours by the domestic tariff (in cents) applicable.** This result is how much your appliance is costing you.
Remember that there is also a fixed daily charge per day added to your bill every day regardless of the number of kilowatt hours you used in the period.

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