

# Unusual suspects.



## Stop your appliances from stealing electricity with these simple tips.

Household items like these may look innocent enough, but they're silently stealing electricity from your outlets even when turned off. And it's costing you money right now – up to five percent of your electric bill each month (source: Science News magazine). Plus, every appliance or electronic you purchase adds to your home's energy demand.

It's easy to forget that everything you plug into your outlet adds to your home's plug load or energy demand. Make a citizen's arrest by unplugging anything not in use or investing in a smart power strip. Unplugging may work easily for your coffee maker or mobile phone charger, but it is not convenient for other items, like TVs, DVD players and computers. Instead, plug these items into a smart power strip – one that detects when you are not using your electronic devices and automatically cuts off power to them. They also feature a few live outlets that supply power all the time (which makes sense for your DVR or DVD player).



## How to stop phantom energy loss

1. Unplug easy-to-access appliances and electronics when not in use.
2. Plug hard-to-unplug appliances and electronics into a smart power strip.

To learn more, visit [alliantenergy.com/plugload](http://alliantenergy.com/plugload)

### Why do some electronics use electricity even when turned off?

Many high-tech devices like digital video recorders (DVRs), cable boxes, computers and microwaves require constant power to maintain your settings. For example, when you turn your television off, it still draws power to remember the last channel you viewed.

### How much electricity are we talking about?

Considering that the average residential Alliant Energy customer spends is about \$1,005 per year on electricity, you could be paying about \$50 each year for phantom energy loss. The amount of electricity that each device draws varies. A video game system can draw about two watts of power when it is technically shut off. A digital satellite system can draw about 13.8 watts when turned off. Devices known to use a lot of energy when turned off include DVRs, cable TV boxes, satellite TV boxes, DVD players and desktop computers. In fact, the first three use as much energy when turned off as when turned on.

### Preventing energy loss while shopping

Something else to remember: everything you plug into an outlet draws electricity and adds expense to your energy bill. While this probably won't prevent you from buying that big screen TV, you can give your energy bill a break by looking for the ENERGY STAR® label when shopping for new electronics and appliances. This label recognizes the most energy-efficient appliances and electronics in their classes. They are usually significantly more efficient than minimum federal energy use standards require.

### Cash rewards on energy-efficient appliances

In addition to saving you money on your energy bill, some ENERGY STAR appliances also qualify for cash rewards:

#### Iowa customers

[alliantenergy.com/rewards](http://alliantenergy.com/rewards)

1-866-ALLIANT (1-866-255-4268)

#### Minnesota customers

[alliantenergy.com/rewards](http://alliantenergy.com/rewards)

1-866-ALLIANT (1-866-255-4268)

#### Wisconsin customers

[focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com)

1-800-762-7077

**Phantom energy loss accounts for five percent of the typical home's electric bill\*, or about \$50 a year for the average Alliant Energy residential electric customer.**

**\*Source: Science News magazine**

