

# EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

Though the mantra “reuse, recycle, reduce” is a foundation of the sustainability movement, in some cases, reusing isn’t best. Replacing old appliances with new, efficient models is the surest way to cut long-term energy costs.

## Aging appliances

ENERGY STAR®, an Environmental Protection Agency program, has simplified the shopping process by offering the ENERGY STAR® label for appliances.

Such products, whether they’re dishwashers, clothes washers, or freezers, have been vetted to be certain they use less energy and natural resources and help you save money.

## Expect savings

Product tags typically outline the appliance’s benefits.

### Some examples:

- ❏ A full-sized ENERGY STAR clothes washer uses 15 gallons of water per load, instead of the 23 gallons used by a standard machine. It saves 27,000 gallons of water over the machine’s lifetime.
- ❏ ENERGY STAR refrigerators use about 15% less energy than non-certified models. Opting for a certified new fridge rather than a standard one can save you \$80 in energy bills over the lifetime of your fridge. Calculate potential savings at [EnergyStar.gov](http://EnergyStar.gov).
- ❏ Dishwashers with the ENERGY STAR label are, on average, 10% more energy efficient and 20% more water efficient than standard models. Pre-1994 dishwashers cost \$40 per year more in energy than those with the ENERGY STAR label.

## Recycle old appliances

If appliance upgrades aren’t in your budget, use what you have efficiently by:

- ❏ Running full loads of laundry or when running the dishwasher.
- ❏ Washing clothes in cold water to save \$63 per year.
- ❏ Turning off the drying feature on your dishwasher.
- ❏ Hanging out clothes to dry in the sun.
- ❏ Using a microwave, rather than a stove for cooking.
- ❏ Keeping the refrigerator away from direct sunlight and setting the temperature between 36 degrees and 38 degrees F. Set the freezer temperature at between 0 to 5 degrees F.

