

MPUA PUBLIC OUTREACH RESOURCES

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013:

Halloween extra feature: **ENERGY VAMPIRES IN YOUR HOME?**

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- **Please let MPUA know when you put these materials to use on your website, in publications, or other local media.** We'd like to help you stay up to date, if updates or revisions are made, or newer information becomes available. Contact: Kerry Cordray, kcordray@mpua.org, 573-445-3279

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Halloween extra:

ENERGY VAMPIRES IN YOUR HOME?

Some appliances use energy when turned off

"Vampire" appliances use small amounts of electricity even when they are turned off, because they go into a standby mode rather than fully powering down. According to the Department of Energy, 'vampire' appliances and electronics may use as much as five percent of the energy in some homes.

For your biggest and most cost-effective home energy savings, you'll do far better by using tips to save energy used in your home's heating, cooling, lighting, laundry, and hot water. Once you've done all that, here are some tips to stop the home energy "vampires". Since they are using constantly using small amounts of electricity, over a full year even these small savings can add up to a handful of cash.

Top 5 energy vampires

1. Computers and computer-related equipment such as modems, routers, printers and fax machines
2. Instant-on TVs, such as plasma, LCD and rear-projection. In most instances, the larger the screen, the more energy the TV uses.
3. Surround sound systems.
4. Cable or satellite TV boxes.
5. Any items in your house that maintain a clock: microwave, programmable coffee maker, all digital clocks and DVD/VCR machines.

How to identify energy vampires

- An external power supply
- A remote control
- A continuous display (including an LED), such as a clock

How can you stop energy vampires?

- Unplug appliances and electronics, especially cell phone chargers and video game systems, when they are not in use.
- Use power strips that can turn off all appliances (TVs, cable/satellite boxes and VCR/DVD players) or electronics (all computer equipment) plugged into them.
- Turn off routers, printers and other peripheral computer equipment when not in use.