



What is “phantom load” and how does it cost you money?

FACT SHEET



For more information
call 800.762.7077 or
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You may not know it, but your house is haunted. Every minute of every day, dozens of sneaky “energy ghosts” are hard at work stealing energy from your wall sockets—and money from your pocket.

That’s because devices such as TVs, VCRs, DVD players, stereos, microwaves and coffee makers don’t actually turn off when you push the power button. Instead, they go into “standby mode,” which uses electricity to power features such as clock displays and remote controls.

Some startling facts about phantom load:

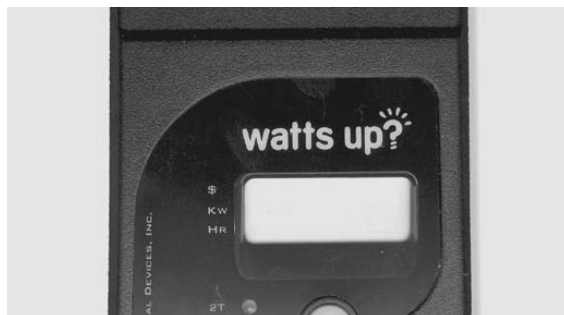
- In the average home, more than 50 percent of the electricity used to power electronics is consumed while the devices are turned off.
- Standby electricity accounts for 4 percent to 7 percent of total electrical consumption in Wisconsin homes—that’s four cents to seven cents for every dollar you spend on electricity!
- In the United States alone, phantom load costs consumers more than \$3 billion a year and adds up to the output of several full-size power plants.

Reducing unnecessary phantom loads helps save energy and protect the environment, as well as save you money.

FREE YOUR HOME FROM PHANTOM LOADS

Don’t let phantom load scare you—stopping these ghosts can be as easy as pulling a few plugs!

- Unplug household appliances and electronics from wall outlets when not in use.
- For convenience, plug multiple devices into a power strip and turn the strip off when not in use.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances and electronics, which use up to 60 percent less energy than standard models.
- Unplug battery chargers when batteries are fully charged or the charger is not in use.



BUST THOSE GHOSTS WITH A WATT METER!

Here’s a fun way to find out how much electricity your home appliances and electronics consume. Plug a watt meter into an outlet, then plug a device into the watt meter. The meter will tell you how much electricity the device is using. Try it with the device on, then turn it off to see the difference—and to catch a glimpse of phantom load at work!

Visit your local library to see if they have a watt meter you can borrow.

MORE ENERGY SAVING IDEAS

Contact Focus on Energy for more ideas and information about how to save energy and money, both at home and at work: 800.762.7077 or focusonenergy.com.

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus information, resources and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not be completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment and control the state’s growing demand for electricity and natural gas. For more information, call 800.762.7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

