

Technology V13/S2 - Reducing Energy Usage



Have you noticed all the small lights in a room when it is dark? Maybe a computer, a TV, or the display on the air conditioner? All those small lights are still using electricity, even if the device is turned off. There are lots of names for the electricity that is used, even when everything is “turned off”.

Some call it ghost electricity, but other names are vampire power, phantom power, or idle current. Whatever you call it, it has a much bigger impact than you may think.

Phantom power can use anywhere from 10% all the way up to 25% of a house's electricity bill. What are some common energy vampires that continue to use energy and drain power, even when turned off?

Phone charger cables and blocks	Cable/satellite boxes
Devices that turn on instantly via remote control	Devices with standby light or clock
Video game consoles	DVR, VCR, DVD players



What can you do to help?

- Shut down your computers and gaming consoles instead of putting them into sleep mode.
- Use a power strip for chargers or small appliances and turn it off when you're not using it.
- Unplug anything you are not using at the time, like a stereo or a second TV.

Doing these things will help save money on the electricity bill, but more importantly, it will help use fewer resources and help the environment.