

# Power Check Meter

Find the energy to save.

How to use the Power Check meter to learn more about your energy usage and savings



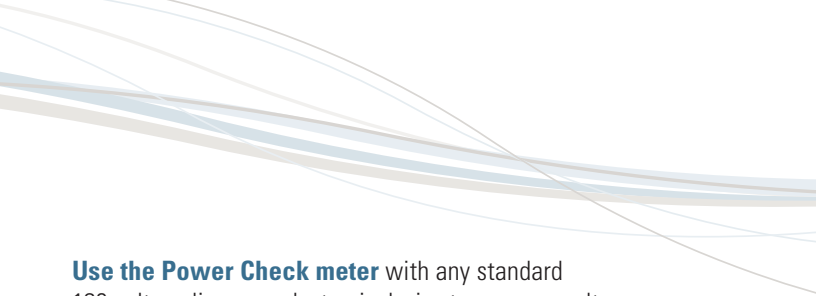
[xcelenergy.com/PowerCheck](http://xcelenergy.com/PowerCheck)



# Know more. Save more.

**When it comes to energy efficiency, knowledge is power!** By checking out a Power Check meter, you're taking the first step toward understanding your own energy use and learning what you can do to save money and energy.





**Use the Power Check meter** with any standard 120-volt appliance or electronic device to measure voltage, electricity cost and electric consumption to:

- Determine the operating costs of various appliances and electronics, such as refrigerators, room air conditioners, computers and TVs.
- Identify high energy-use appliances.
- Predict savings from reducing appliance use.
- Calculate savings for replacing older appliances with energy-efficient models.
- Discover “energy vampires”— appliances that use energy, even when switched off.

## Did you know?

Using less energy can help:

- Save money.
- Conserve natural resources.
- Reduce power plant emissions.

Thank you for being a part of Power Check, an energy efficiency education program brought to you by Xcel Energy and your local public library.

# Safety First

Keeping you and your family safe is important to us.

**Please follow these simple safety instructions:**

## **Keep the Power Check meter out of reach of children.**

Using the meter with your family is a great way to teach them about energy and conservation, but an adult should be in charge of any hands-on operations at all times.

## **Minimize risk of shock or fire:**

- Use the meter indoors only.
- Do not expose the meter to moisture or use it if it gets wet.
- Do not remove the cover for any reason.
- Do not use the meter if it shows any sign of damage.  
*Report any damage to your library when you return the meter.*
- Note that the meter is rated for a maximum of 120-volt, 60Hz, 15 amps.
- Insert the meter's back plug only into properly wired receptacles.
- Ensure power cords and plugs are in good working condition before inserting them into the meter.



## Did you know?

Appliances and electronics represent  
**31%** of total residential consumption.

US Energy Information Administration ([www.eia.gov](http://www.eia.gov))

# Getting Started

## To Measure Energy Usage:

1. Plug your appliance or electronic device into the meter.
2. Plug the meter into a standard, properly grounded 120-volt AC wall outlet.
3. Turn on the appliance/electronic device.
4. Press the **MODE** button until the word “WATTS” appears. The meter will display a real-time reading of wattage currently being used by the appliance.
5. Press the **MODE** button again and the meter will display watts used per hour.

**Tip:** The longer you leave the appliance/electronic device plugged into the meter, the better the meter will predict the monthly cost of running the appliance/device.

To view a quick-start instructional video on how to operate the Power Check meter, visit [xcelenergy.com/PowerCheck](http://xcelenergy.com/PowerCheck) and click on the “Instructional Video” link.

## Make the most of energy in your home.

Start with a Home Energy Audit to learn steps you can take to be more energy efficient. Find more info in this kit or at **[xcelenergy.com/PowerCheck](http://xcelenergy.com/PowerCheck)**.



### Did you know?

Compact fluorescent light bulbs use about **75 percent less energy** than standard bulbs and last at least 6 times longer.

The ENERGY STAR® program ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov))



# To Set Rate and Energy Costs:

1. **Use your energy bill** to determine your energy rate by dividing your total monthly electrical charges by your total kilowatt (kWh) hour usage.
2. **To set the rate in the Power Check energy meter**, press the **MODE** button three times until the display shows the "\$" symbol. This is the "cost" function.
3. **Press down and hold the SELECT button** until the meter displays "SET." UP/DOWN indicators will alternately flash.
4. **Click the SELECT button** and the value will change in the direction of the arrow. Holding the **SELECT** button changes the value faster.
5. **Click the MODE button** when the rate is correct.
6. **Press "SELECT" once** and the meter will calculate your average monthly cost for using the appliance.

Go to [xcelenergy.com/PowerCheck](http://xcelenergy.com/PowerCheck) to download worksheets to help guide you.

## Sample Consumption and Costs for Typical Appliances and Electronics

Appliance/ Electronic	Monthly kWh	Daily Cost	Monthly Cost
Refrigerator	55	\$0.20	\$6.05
Computer	20	\$0.07	\$2.20
75 Watt Incandescent on 8 hours/day	18	\$0.07	\$1.98



**Discover even more ways to save.**

Visit **[responsiblebynature.com/choices](https://responsiblebynature.com/choices)** for a complete list of home efficiency programs.



## **Put What You Discover to Work for You**

**Now that you see the operating costs for your appliances, what can you do with the info?**

Use the chart on the following page to see how your appliances measure up to average appliance operating costs and to determine your potential cost savings of replacing older, less-efficient appliances.

## Average Costs to Operate Various Household Appliances

Model Type*		Monthly kWh	Monthly Usage Cost
<b>Refrigerator/Freezer</b> (25 cubic feet side by side with icemaker)	Standard	55	\$6.05
	Efficient	44	\$4.84
<b>Refrigerator/Freezer</b> (20 cubic feet top/bottom)	Standard	47	\$5.17
	Efficient	38	\$4.18
<b>Freezer</b> (14 cubic feet, frost free)	Standard	34	\$3.74
	Efficient	31	\$3.41
<b>Dishwasher</b> (Home with electric water heater, average 18 washes/month)	Standard	29	\$3.19
	Efficient	24	\$2.64
<b>Microwave</b> (Used 15 minutes/day)	Standard	11	\$1.21
<b>Toaster</b> (Used 5 minutes/day)	Standard	4	\$0.44
<b>Clothes Washer</b> (Home with electric water heater, average 6 washes/week)	Standard	64	\$7.04
	Efficient	40	\$4.40
<b>Lighting – 13 Watt Compact Fluorescent</b> (1 month at 8 hours/day)	Standard	3	\$0.33
<b>Lighting – 75 Watt Incandescent</b> (1 month at 8 hours/day)	Standard	18	\$1.98



\*Purchasing high-efficiency appliances, often certified by ENERGY STAR®, can save you 30 percent or more on your energy costs. ENERGY STAR appliances meet the government's energy efficiency rating.

# Discover More from Power Check

## PC Graphing & Charting

The Power Check meter has the ability to download data to a PC for graphing and charting by using the enclosed software and USB cable.

## Pay-back Calculator

Use the meter with the PC interface as a pay-back calculator to automatically calculate the number of months to pay back the cost of a new energy efficient appliance.



If you are interested in using some of the meter's advanced features, please consult the manufacturer's detailed instructional guide enclosed in the meter box. For questions about the meter's operation, call the company's support line at 1-877-928-8701.

## Did you know?

American homes waste roughly **\$7 billion** through “vampire” energy – appliances/electronics that use energy even when turned off.

E Source “Plug Loads: The Phantom Menace” December 2012

# Take Action!

## Thank you for taking part in the Power Check program.

We encourage you to share what you learned about your energy usage – this will help support Power Check's continued success and help others learn more about how to conserve energy.



Scan the QR code to take a short survey, or go to [xcelenergy.com/PowerCheck](http://xcelenergy.com/PowerCheck) and click on "Survey".

## Become even more energy efficient.

Learn more about additional steps you can take - go to [xcelenergy.com/PowerCheck](http://xcelenergy.com/PowerCheck). We recommend starting with a **Home Energy Audit** - you can find more information in this kit or on the website.



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