

Stop Energy Loss at Home

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Craig Kessler

Energy vampires don't only come out at night. They're sucking the electrical juice in your home 24/7, whether you know it or not. An energy vampire is any one of a myriad of devices that remain on standby or in sleep mode most of the time, yet keep consuming electricity as long as they're plugged in says Air Conditioning Repair Jackson MS.

The following are startling facts from the Union of Concerned Scientists:

This wasted energy, known as standby or phantom energy loss, represents a relatively small but growing percentage of an individual home's electricity use (about five percent), but taken across all U.S. households, adds up to an estimated 65 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year. This extra electricity costs consumers more than \$5.8 billion annually and sends more than 87 billion pounds of heat-trapping carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year. ([read more...](#))

Many of these are small electronics like DVR and DVD players, laptop A/C adapters or printers. But their cumulative

effect on your household energy efficiency can be large: As much as 20 percent of power used by home electronics is wasted on devices that are powered up but on standby. Cell phone battery chargers are particularly sneaky. Even when they're not charging a battery, if they're plugged into the wall, they're drawing a trickle of electricity.

According to Wikipedia.org, "There is a risk of fire from devices in standby mode. There are reports of televisions, in particular, catching fire in standby mode."

Besides their beady LED eyes, you can identify energy vampires by the way they plug into the wall. "Wall warts" use a square transformer that plugs directly into the outlet. They normally convert AC to 9- or 12-volt DC to power low-voltage devices like answering machines, cordless phones and battery chargers. "Bricks" have a standard plug and AC cord leading to a heavier-duty rectangular transformer box midway in the cord. These are typically seen on laptop AC adapters. Here are a few ways to fight back against this slow, silent waste of electricity.



English: A power strip used to turn off power to several appliances at once, avoiding vampire load (also called standby load or phantom load) (Photo credit: Wikipedia)

Completely power down computers and devices like printers instead of using standby or sleep mode. Even when you completely power down some electronics, unplugging them from the wall is the only way to prevent them from continuing to consume electricity. Use an on/off power strip to plug in as many energy vampires as possible. With one flip of the switch, cut them all off from the grid and reduce power consumption we suggest.