



# Refrigerator

Refrigerators are responsible for about 8% of the average household's energy usage. Replacing your old refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR® certified refrigerator could save you \$200–\$1,100 on electricity costs over the refrigerator's lifetime. Look to TVA EnergyRight® and your local power company to help you make even more smart decisions about your home's energy use.

## What features should I look for in a new refrigerator?

### ENERGY STAR models

Choose an ENERGY STAR certified model and you could save 15% more energy over a standard model.

### EnergyGuide label

Check the refrigerator's yellow EnergyGuide label for estimated annual operating costs and compare it to similar models.

### Top-mounted freezer

Choose a refrigerator with a top-mounted freezer and you'll use 10%–25% less energy than side-by-side models or bottom-mounted freezers.

### Appropriate size

Select a refrigerator that is energy efficient in size, typically 16–20 cubic feet.

### No ice maker and dispenser

Save an additional 14%–20% energy by skipping the automatic ice maker or through-the-door ice dispenser.



# How can I reduce the amount of energy that my refrigerator uses?

## Set temperature

Set your refrigerator between 35–38F; set your freezer between 0–5F.

## Cool location

Place your refrigerator in a cool location away from heat sources like an oven, furnace register or direct sunlight.

## Air circulation

Leave a few inches of open space behind the refrigerator for air to circulate.

## Clean coils

Keep the condenser coils clean on older models. Refer to the user's manual for proper cleaning methods, then look for cleaning brushes at your local home improvement store.

## Airtight door seals

Make sure the seals around each refrigerator door is airtight.

## Shut the door

Reduce the amount of time refrigerator doors are left open.

## Keep it full

Keep your refrigerator stocked to retain cold air better; you'll use less energy to keep food cold too.



## Can I use my old refrigerator as a second refrigerator?

A second refrigerator could cost you an extra \$300 per year to operate. Unplug it if you're not using it. And when you're shopping for a new refrigerator, choose a retailer that will pick up and recycle your old one.

Visit **EnergyRight.com** to take our free DIY home energy assessment, get expert advice from energy pros, hire TVA-approved contractors and more.