

# How to Cut Down on Your Electrical Bills?



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**OIL PRICE SKYROCKETED TO USD\$100 PER BARREL IN 2008! RECESSION! STAGNANT ECONOMY! NEGATIVE GROWTH!**

These are just some of the recent economic crises that have left a huge dent in all our pockets. In times such as these, it is essential to save money whenever and wherever possible!

People across the world have developed some ingenious ways to save on money without having to compromise on their lifestyles ... here are some tips on how you can cut costs at home or in your offices by following one simple rule:

## UNPLUG

Gone are the days when it would suffice to "switch off the lights/air-con when not in use". Try this and you will be pleasantly surprised with your next month's electricity bill!

## WHAT you need to do?

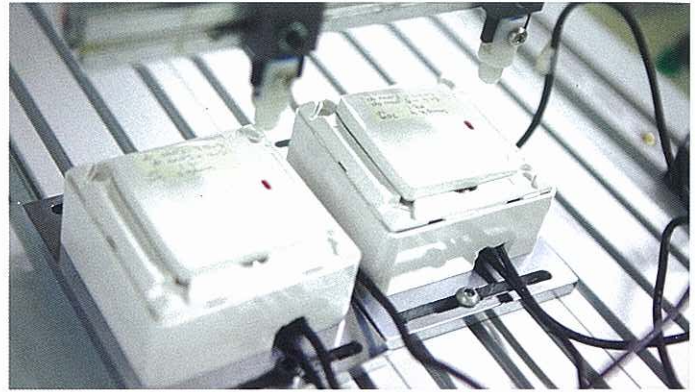
Unplug everything when it is not in use - TV set, lamps, appliances, etc.

## IS it effective?

I happened to be surfing online for case studies on energy saving when I stumbled upon this information from [www.oprah.com](http://www.oprah.com). In May 2008, Rhondalyn's energy bill was USD\$268.00. After unplugging all her appliances, her bill went down to USD\$60.42. That's over USD\$200 in savings!!!

## HOW does it work?

TV sets, sound systems, computers, printers, cable modem, DVD players: these items use between 10 to 50 watts, which works out to 6 - 30 kilowatt-hours a month, if they are switched off but not unplugged for 20 days in a day. This works on the principle of "phantom load" which is the electric power consumed by electronic appliances while they remain switched off or are in a standby mode.



To put things into perspective, if you left your appliances at home switched off but not unplugged, you are paying approximately SGD\$13 per month<sup>(1)</sup> for something that you are not even using.

**So, switch off those energy hungry demons and save money!!**

Table 3 - Tabulation of Measured Appliance Standby Loads

Appliance	Average load (watt)	Minimum (watt)	Maximum (watt)
<b>Entertainment</b>			
TV	6.4	2.5	12.0
Set top box	10.2	1.5	23.0
VCR	5.3	1.3	11.3
Music box	5.2	1.3	10.0
CD player	2.2	0	6.8
Receiver	2.8	0	8.8
Tape player	1.0	0	2.3
<b>Communications</b>			
Phone	2.1	0.6	3.5
Answering machine	2.2	1.8	2.9
Fax	5.0	3.1	6.6
<b>Computer</b>			
Tower	1.2	0	2.3
Monitor	2.0	0	5.9
Printer	4.2	1.7	11.5
Subwoofer	6.9	4.0	10.8
Laptop charger	4.5	1.1	19.6
Copier	5.1	0.3	9.8
<b>Miscellaneous</b>			
Microwave	2.8	1.6	3.9
Clock	1.0	0.6	2.2
Telephone system	24.5	24.5	24.5

Source: World-House Measurement of Standby Power Consumption, J.P. Ross and Alan Meier, LBNL-45967

<sup>(1)</sup> Calculations are based on the current tariff by Singapore Power, which is 22.93 cents (SGD) per kilowatt-hr (as at 23 March 2009, Singapore Power).