

WHAT IS VAMPIRE ENERGY?



What if we told you that there are “vampires” in your house draining your electricity and raising your energy bills? Also known as phantom energy, **vampire energy refers to the power that electric devices use when in standby mode or when they remain plugged in even when fully charged.**

If left unchecked, **vampire energy** could be a nightmare for your wallet, amounting to 10-20% of your monthly electricity bill.

How can you fix it?



To start, take an inventory. What's plugged in around your home? To find your energy vampires, look for devices with a remote control, standby indicator light, or built-in clock. These are indicators of continuous power usage. Many devices have standby lights that glow when they're pulling power. **Look for the glow and you'll know.**

Common "vampires" include:

Televisions / Satellite or Cable Boxes

DVD Players/ Video Game Consoles

Desktop Computers / Monitors

Printers / Scanners

Microwaves / Coffee Makers / Air Fryers

Hair Dryers / Curling Irons / Electric Toothbrushes

Cell Phones / Laptops / Tablets



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call 703-324-7136, TTY 711

Then, take a stab at saving electricity with these tips!

- **Unplug small rechargeable appliances that are fully charged.** Appliances like cellphones and electric toothbrushes with power adapters consume electricity when recharging, and will continue to consume electricity, even after fully charged, so long as they're plugged in.
- **Get smart about your power strips.** One of the best ways to vanquish the energy suckers in your life is to outsmart them.
 - A traditional power strip expands the numbers of outlets you can use. When you use a traditional power strip, switching it off cuts power to everything plugged into it.
 - A smart strip allows you to control the flow of power to your devices. You can cut power to some devices, but let power flow to others, like cable boxes or certain medical devices.
- **Activate Energy Saver modes.** Some devices, like computer monitors, can be programmed to “sleep” after a period of inactivity. If you're not comfortable with unplugging devices, use a device's Energy Saver mode instead.

Want to take the next step? Use ENERGY STAR® appliances

They're more energy efficient, so they use less energy overall. You may pay more upfront, but the savings in energy costs for the lifetime of the product make up the difference.



Don't let vampire energy suck the life out of your budget. Recover the dollars that are slipping away with these steps and you'll be well on your way to a better energy future.

