



Energy efficiency

with Paul Myors

Avoid buyer's remorse using the energy rating label

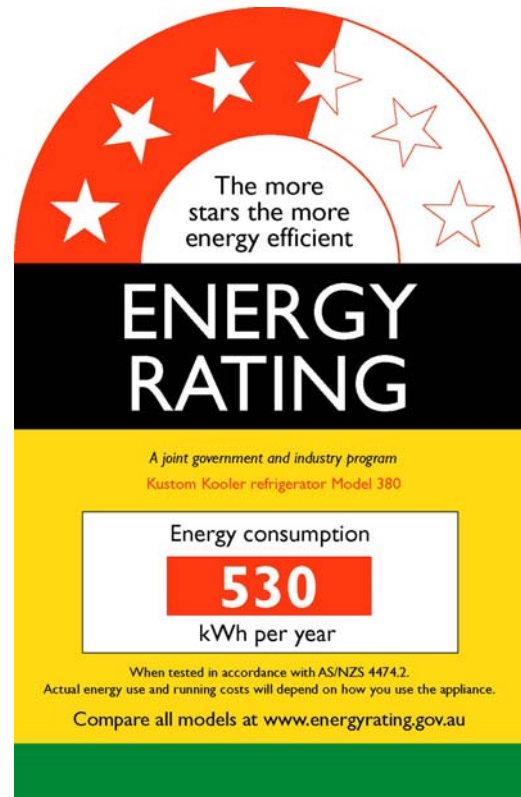
Shopping for large appliances can be confusing, but knowing how the Energy Rating label works can make things easier.

The Energy Rating label lets you compare the energy efficiency of large appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers, clothes dryers, dishwashers and air-conditioners.

As well as showing how much power the device uses, the label can also help you work out how much it's likely to cost you to run.

The Energy Rating label has two main features:

- The star rating which allows you to quickly assess and compare the model's energy efficiency, and
- The comparative energy consumption which shows how much energy the appliance is likely to use each year (usually kilowatt hours per year), or if it's an air conditioner, how much power will use each hour if run at capacity.



If you're shopping around for a new appliance and want to know how it will affect your energy bill, multiply the kWh per year number by 15 cents to estimate the annual running cost.

If you can't do it in your head, just use the calculator in your mobile phone.

Since 2000, energy efficiency has been measured against a tougher standard so a new four star fridge performs much better than a four star fridge bought before 2000.

■ PAUL MYORS is an energy efficiency expert from EnergyAustralia.

For more details go to www.energy.com.au or call 13 15 35

