



Energy efficiency

with Paul Myers

Cool fridge savings

The humble household fridge is one of the biggest energy users in your home, simply because it runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. But there are some easy ways to keep costs down.

Always check the star rating label before buying a new fridge. The efficiency of new model fridges has improved dramatically in recent years and the running cost of a new high star fridge can be as little as \$70 a year compared with up to \$200 for a model that's more than 10 years old.

Which brings me to that old second fridge – do you really need it? If so, you can still make big savings by at least turning it off when you don't need it (be sure to leave the door slightly ajar).

Regardless of your fridge type and age, this simple energy efficiency checklist could help you cut your bills by up to \$40 a year:

1. Make sure there's at least an 80mm space on all sides of your fridge to allow air to circulate around the rear coils.
2. Put it in a cool place - out of direct sunlight and away from the oven.



3. Check the seals by closing a \$5 note in the door. If you can pull it out easily, you might need to adjust the door hinge or replace the seals.
4. Don't open the fridge door more than necessary to keep as much cool air in
5. Allow food to cool before putting it in the fridge (but don't let it sit at room temperature for too long – this could be a health risk).
6. If your fridge needs defrosting, you should do it between two and three times a year.

■ **PAUL MYORS** is an energy efficiency expert from EnergyAustralia.

To talk to Paul Myers about these or other energy efficiency tips call (02) 9966 7985 or go to www.energy.com.au/efficiency

