

What's a Watt?

Home Energy Use

Power is the rate at which something gains or loses energy. We measure power in watts, or how many joules of work can be done in a second. Different appliances around your house require different amounts of power to operate, complete this activity to see how some common household appliances hold up.

Instructions

1. Sort the appliances according to how many watts of power you think they need to operate. Then select the ones that you think are still using a small amount of power even when they are turned off (this is called stand by, or vampire power.)
2. Turn over the appliance cards to see if your order is correct! Look for the vampire icon to see if the appliance is a victim of vampire power.

Climate Connection

The majority of electricity that we use to power our homes comes from burning fossil fuels such as coal. This process releases high amounts of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. The less energy that you use in your home the less carbon dioxide will be emitted into the atmosphere.

Vampire, or standby power is the power that appliances use when they are off mode but still plugged in, this is the small amount of power it takes to run the clock on your microwave or allow your TV to receive a signal from a remote control.



If you are interested in knowing how much energy is used by an appliance in your home consider purchasing a Kill-a-Watt, a simple device that measures how much power your appliances use