



What's a Watt?

Find out which appliances use more power

Activity Guide

Do you know which appliances in your home use the most power? Do you know which appliances use vampire power?

Try This!

Step 1: Set the appliance cards with the pictures facing up.

Step 2: Sort the appliance cards according to how many **watts of power** you think they need to operate.

Step 3: Turn over the appliance cards to see if the order is correct!

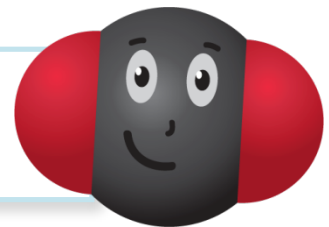
Step 4: Look for the vampire icon! This symbol means that the appliance may also be sucking energy even when it is turned off.



Climate Connection

The amount of power, or the number of watts needed to use an appliance, varies greatly between different types of appliances. *Vampire power* or *standby power* is the power appliances use when they are turned “off” but still plugged in.

Vampire power accounts for around 10% of household power-consumption!



Turn the page over to learn more!

What's Happening?

The rate at which something gains or loses energy is known as **power**. The amount of power, or the number of watts needed to use an appliance, varies greatly both between different home appliances and with different types of the same appliances. Household lighting choices, for example, require different amounts of power depending on the type of light bulb that is installed.

Standby or **vampire power** is the power appliances use when they turned “off” but still plugged in. This is usually 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. Although it is a small amount of power, it ends up accounting for a significant percentage of your energy use. Vampire power can be prevented simply by unplugging the appliance from the wall when it is not in use or by using a power strip that can be shut off.

Power is measured in joules per second, or watts. A kilowatt is equal to 1,000



If you are interested in knowing specifically how much energy an appliance in your home uses consider purchasing a Kill-A-Watt®, a simple device that measures how much power your appliances use.

Climate Detective Challenge

What is vampire power?

Find the answer to this question on the Activity Map!

