

Understanding KWH (kilowatt hour)

1. One kilowatt equals 1,000 watts
2. The cost of using a 100 watt bulb for 10 hours equals 1 kwh

Our average cost per KWH for the average residential customer is 5.9¢. To calculate the average cost of electricity, use the example below:

To operate a 40 watt bulb for 24 hours:

$$\begin{aligned}40 \text{ watt bulb} \times 24 \text{ hours} &= 960 \text{ watts} \\960 \text{ watts} &= .96 \text{ kwh} \\\.96 \text{ kwh} \times 5.9\text{¢} &= 5.66\text{¢}\end{aligned}$$

Estimating the Monthly Cost of Electric Appliances

1. Determine the wattage used by the appliance and estimate the number of hours used per month. Wattage information can usually be found on the back or bottom of the appliance.
2. Use the following formula inserting 5.9¢ for your electric rate and 30 for the number of days in a month.

$$\frac{\text{Wattage} \times \text{hours used per day}}{1,000} \times 30 \text{ days} \times \text{rate} = \text{estimated cost}$$

Examples of Wattage:

16 Cubic Ft Refrigerator	725 watts
Coffee Maker	900-1200 watts
Dishwasher	1200-1400 watts
Microwave	750-1100 watts
Clothes Washer	350-500 watts
Clothes Dryer	1800-5000 watts
Dehumidifier	785 watts