

# *SmartWays* new appliance Checklist



**Western Power**

We've compiled this checklist to help you manage your energy use at home. By reducing your energy consumption, you'll not only enjoy a smaller power account you'll be helping to create a cleaner, healthier environment for all of us.

You can use the checklist to help select appliances that are both energy efficient and suit your family and lifestyle needs.

If you're building or renovating you should take your building plans and the checklist shopping with you to ensure you make the right choices the first time. You'll save and the environment will love you for it.



## Hot water

Hot water accounts for around 32% of the average household's energy costs in Perth, so the selection and maintenance of an energy efficient system can make a big difference to your power bill. Before selecting your hot water system you should consider the purchase price, lifetime running costs of the system, ease of installation and the maintenance/warranty.

Did you know, storage systems provide a limited amount of hot water at mains pressure? Continuous flow systems provide unlimited amounts of hot water at a reduced pressure and can be cheaper than storage systems to operate. Solar is the cheapest to operate, whilst gas and electric can be similar depending on the tariff applicable.

### Things to find out before you leave home:

1. Would a storage or continuous flow (instantaneous) system best suit my needs?

2. What are the dimensions of the area I plan to fit my hot water system in? e.g. roof, laundry, side of house.

### Questions to ask the sales assistant:

1. What size system will best cater for the needs of my family?
2. What is the expected life of the system?
3. What maintenance and servicing is required?
4. What temperature should I have the thermostat set at and how does this affect running costs?
5. What is the energy rating and cost to operate this unit?
6. Should the hot water pipes be insulated to prevent heat loss?

## Reverse cycle air conditioning

Heating and cooling accounts for around 25% of your power bill. An energy efficient heating/cooling package can use up to 40% less energy. Reverse Cycle Air Conditioners not only cool your home but are one of the most efficient forms of heating. Be aware that the location of your unit, both inside and outside, will affect the cost of installation e.g. cost of wiring, cabling and labour.

### Things to find out before you leave home:

1. Do I have ceiling insulation?

2. Do I need to air-condition my whole house or just one room?

3. What are the exact dimensions, floor space and wall height of the area I need to air-condition?

4. What direction do my windows face in the areas I want to air-condition?

### Questions to ask the sales assistant:

1. Can you determine the air-conditioning input I require from my house plans?
2. Which systems assist sufferers of Asthma and other allergies?
3. What is the energy rating and cost to operate this unit?
4. Will the operating noise bother me or my neighbours?
5. Where is the best location for this system and are there any restrictions as to the location, such as bedrooms?
6. Do I need single phase electricity or three phase electricity?
7. What are the desired temperatures at which I should operate this system?

8. Does it have a remote control and a multi-speed fan to vary the airflow according to my needs?
9. What is the expected life of the system?
10. What maintenance and servicing is required?

## Refrigeration

Refrigeration accounts for around 16% of the average household's energy costs in Perth. Price, size and features are the main considerations when buying a refrigerator or freezer. Cyclic defrost refrigerators use slightly less energy, but require regular defrosting, whilst frost-free refrigerators require no defrosting but may use more energy to operate. You should allow at least 15 centimetres of air space around your refrigerator for heat removal, so measure your doorways and fridge location to ensure the new fridge will fit.

### Things to find out before you leave home:

1. Do I prefer a cyclic defrost or a frost-free refrigerator?
2. What capacity best suits my household?

### Questions to ask the sales assistant:

1. What is the energy rating and running costs for this refrigerator?
2. What power source will I need?
3. Should my fridge/freezer be protected by an RCD (Earth Leakage Device)?
4. What thermostat setting should I operate my fridge/freezer on?
5. Does the fridge have rollers so I can easily clean behind it?
6. What maintenance and servicing is required?



## Hotplates

Cooking accounts for around 12% of the average household's energy costs in Perth.

The new generation Ceramic and Induction cooktops offer unprecedented temperature control, versatility, safety and style. There is also an added comfort of knowing that children are not exposed to naked flames.

### Things to find out before you leave home:

1. What are the exact dimensions of the bench cavity?

### Questions to ask the sales assistant:

1. If I choose gas are there fluing /ventilation requirements?
2. If I choose gas how close can my overhead cupboards be?
3. Are Induction and Ceramic cooktops more efficient than other cooktops?
4. Is this cooktop easy to clean and hygienic?
5. Do Induction and Ceramic cooktops emit any airborne pollutants?
6. What is the energy rating and running cost of this cooktop?
7. What maintenance and servicing is required?

## Ovens

Electric and gas ovens are available for installation in walls, under benches or as part of a conventional stove. The type of installation you choose will have no effect on energy efficiency or cooking performance. Fan-forced electric ovens use energy more efficiently than conventional ovens, distribute heat more evenly and eradicate hotspots.

### Things to find out before you leave home:

1. What are the exact dimensions of the cavity?
2. What size oven will best suit my cooking needs and accommodate my cookware?



### Questions to ask the sales assistant:

1. Which ovens are the most efficient for my needs?
2. Are there any cost differences in installation between electric and gas ovens?
3. Is this oven self-cleaning?
4. What is the energy rating and running cost of this oven?
5. What maintenance and servicing is required?

## Microwave ovens

Microwave ovens can be extremely energy efficient as a result of the short cooking times involved. Using a microwave oven wherever possible can save an average family around \$25 per year.

### Things to find out before you leave home:

1. What are the exact dimensions of the space I have to house the unit?
2. Will I be using my unit predominantly for re-heating or will I be using it for conventional cooking?

### Questions to ask the sales assistant:

1. Does this oven have a sensor cook and reheat function, which measures vapours in the oven when cooking, or reheating, so you don't need to set time or weight?
2. Does this unit have Multi-stage programming enabling the oven to perform a sequence of functions, for example: defrost, cook, then leave to stand?
3. Does this unit have a child safety lock?
4. Can I replace the turntable and fan easily should it break?
5. What is the energy rating and running cost of this unit?

## Dishwashers

Not all dishwashers use the same amount of electricity to achieve the same levels of dishwashing. This is why the Energy Label is attached to all dishwashers. Always allow some room at the back and sides for ventilation once the unit is installed.

### Things to find out before you leave home:

1. What capacity will you require for your household?
2. What are the exact dimensions of the space I have to house the unit?
3. Do you want a cold, hot or dual water connection?

### Questions to ask the sales assistant:

1. How much water does it use per wash?
2. Does it have half-load or load sensing options?
3. Does this unit operate effectively with my choice of hot or cold water connection?
4. Can I easily get to the filters to remove and clean them?
5. Can the dishwasher accommodate plates larger than 26cm?
6. Does this unit have an anti-flood device?
7. What is the energy rating and running cost of this dishwasher?



# Clothes Dryers

Be energy wise and ensure that you don't just dry a few items on their own or on the other hand overload the dryer.

## Things to find out before you leave home:

1. What capacity do you require?
2. Do you have the available space for a standard model or will you require a wall mounted model?

# Washing machines

Washing machines contribute to around 11% of the average household's energy costs in Perth. Top loaders usually have a shorter normal wash cycle whilst front loaders tend to have a higher spin speed, extracting more water and lessening the necessary drying time, but they may crease your clothes more. Front loaders are generally more energy efficient.

## Things to find out before you leave home:

1. What are the exact dimensions of the space I have to house the unit?
2. What capacity do I require for my household?

## Questions to ask the sales assistant:

1. What are the benefits of a top loader versus a front loading machine?
2. Which is the more energy efficient of the two?
3. Does this unit have a timer?
4. Will the size of this unit fit in my existing location?
5. Does this machine need both hot and cold water to operate correctly?
6. Does this unit have an anti-crease or permanent press feature?
7. What is the energy rating and running cost of this washing machine?

## Questions to ask the sales assistant:

1. Does it require greater than a 10 Amp electrical circuit, which is standard in most households?
2. Does it have an auto sensor or overheat protection?
3. Does it come with a drying rack so I use the warm exhaust air to dry delicates?
4. Does it have a reverse tumbling action to minimise tangles?
5. Can I easily get to the filter to remove lint?
6. What is the energy rating and running cost of this dryer?

## Get Smart. Reach for the stars and save.

This is the label to look for when you're comparing the efficiency of different electrical appliances. The stars will tell you how efficient the appliance is. **The rule is, the greater the number of stars, the more efficient the appliance.**

The number in the red box tells you how much actual energy the appliance is likely to use in a year. This indicates the amount of electricity the appliance uses. The lower the kWh per year figure, the less the appliance will cost to run. To compare running costs of appliances, refer to the kWh per year figure in the centre of the label. To calculate the annual running costs of the appliances, simply multiply this figure by your electricity tariff of 13.94 cents (standard A1 residential tariff).



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