



Refrigerator / Freezer Fun Facts

Millions of older, inefficient refrigerators and freezers are costing a lot!

- Fridges made before 1993 are inefficient and use more than twice the energy of a new ENERGY STAR® qualified model. A pre-1993 fridge costs \$110 per year in electricity.¹
- The life expectancy of a refrigerator is 14 years. The life expectancy of a freezer is 11 years.
- U.S. households have 44.5 million fridges over 10 years old, 12.7 million of which are secondary units,² often in basements and garages. And some homes have three fridges!
- 16.9 million household freezers are over 10 years old – that's 44 percent of all freezers.³
- Combined, the inefficient appliances above use \$4.9 billion per year in energy costs.⁴

Working together, Americans can make a difference.

- Every step we take to become more energy efficient and lessen our impact on global climate change is a step to preserve energy resources and our environment for generations to come. Just think: if every American home replaced its old refrigerator and/or freezer with ENERGY STAR qualified models, together, we would save:⁵
 - Enough energy to light more than 9.2 million homes for an entire year.
 - More than \$2 billion in annual energy costs.
 - The annual greenhouse gas emissions of more than 2.3 million cars, or nearly 1% of all registered automobiles in the United States. That is more than the number of registered autos in the entire state of Connecticut. Lined up bumper to bumper, those cars would stretch from New York to Los Angeles and back.
- The average refrigerator aged 10 years or older contains more than 120 pounds of recyclable steel! The energy saved by recycling one such refrigerator is equivalent to almost 290 kilowatt-hours. That's enough energy to light a 13-watt ENERGY STAR qualified light bulb for over 2 ½ years.⁶

ENERGY STAR makes it easy to save.

- New ENERGY STAR refrigerators must be at least 20 percent more energy efficient than the minimum federal standard. New ENERGY STAR qualified freezers must be at least 10 percent more efficient than the minimum federal standard.
- ENERGY STAR® is a government-backed program helping individuals and businesses save energy and protect the environment through superior energy efficiency. In a consumer survey released in 2007, 73 percent of respondents said ENERGY STAR influenced their product purchase decision-making, an increase of 10 percentage points from 2006.⁷



Make a
COOL CHANGE.
Recycle Your Old Fridge.



These fun facts have been compiled from a variety of sources and are rounded for ease of use. Direct any questions to Jack Henry-Rhoads, D&R International, technical contractor to the U.S. Department of Energy, at jhrhoads@drintl.com.

¹ Source: D&R International, 2009.

² Source: Residential Energy Consumption Survey, 2005.

³ Source: Residential Energy Consumption Survey, 2005.

⁴ Source: D&R International, 2009.

⁵ Assumes a pre-1993 model fridge.

⁶ Source: Institute of Steel Recycling Industries.

⁷ National Awareness of ENERGY STAR for 2007, Analysis of CEE Household Survey.