



Vampire Power: Quick Facts

Also known as standby power, leaking electricity or phantom load, vampire power is wasted electrical energy consumed while products and appliances are switched off but still plugged in. These devices range from televisions, home entertainment systems, personal computers and peripherals, to space heaters, room air-conditioners and coffee pots – all of which continue to draw power even when they are turned off. Averaging 10-15 watts per hour per device, vampire power is a constant drain on people's wallets as well as the electrical grid, resulting in a huge impact on the environment... and our planet.

Here are some sobering facts about the effects of vampire power:

- Various government analyses estimate that the amount of vampire power wasted accounts for as much as 12% of all residential power; a bit lower in some countries, a bit higher in others.
- The average US household wastes over 1,300 kWh of electricity each year. To generate that amount of electricity would require over a half-a-ton of coal or nearly 32 gallons of oil.
- The cost of vampire power wasted by plug-in products in the United States is \$4-8 billion annually.
- Plug-in load is the fastest growing category of residential and commercial energy use in North America.
- Vampire power wasted in the U.S. is enough to meet the electricity needs of Vietnam, Peru and Greece.

Here's how vampire power sucks electricity (and money from our wallets):

- An on-but-idle computer uses 74 watts of power per hour, 21 watts in "sleep" mode; a video game console draws over 23 watts per hour in "ready" mode.
- The US Dept. of Energy estimates that 75% of the annual power consumed by VCRs, TVs, stereos, computers, printers, and other plug-in devices is used when the appliance is *switched off*.
- A TV entertainment system (LCD TV, DVR, satellite set-top box, sound system amp, sub-woofer, DVD player, game console) used five hours per day will consume 100 watts per hour in standby daily. Total annual cost: nearly \$80.
- To generate the electricity required to provide that 100 watts per hour for an entire year would require 714 pounds of coal, which would create 5 lbs. of sulfur dioxide (causing acid rain), 5 lbs. of nitrogen oxides (causing smog and acid rain) and over 1800 pounds of carbon dioxide (causing "greenhouse gas" tied to global warming).

Stop Vampire Power... Save Our Environment:

On average, a TrickleStar TrickleStrip can save a consumer in the United States \$38 per year in electricity costs, or the equivalent of 253 kilowatts of power, 278 pounds of coal and nearly 400 pounds of CO₂ emissions.

If just 10% of the estimated 115 million households in the U.S. used one TrickleStrip, we could save 2.9 million megawatts of electricity, the equivalent of one new power plant and the 1.6 million tons of coal, or 1.7 million barrels of oil needed to generate that electricity. The cumulative impact of this energy-saving technology is tremendous. Now that's smart power.

Sources:

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