

INSTALLMENT

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BEWARE THE PHANTOM LOAD!

What is the Phantom Load?

Phantom load refers to the energy that is used by appliances when they are turned off. Most appliances like TVs, VCRs, and cell phone chargers use a small amount of energy to stay on standby, even when they are turned off. The only way to completely keep energy from being wasted is to unplug your appliances when you are finished with them.

Not only does this waste energy, but it contributes to pollution and global warming.

The main problem is that electric devices are inefficiently designed.

Fun Facts about Phantom Loads

- Nationally, phantom loads make up 6% of our residential electricity consumption
- Our Nation wastes 43 billion Kilowatt-hours of energy yearly. This is enough electricity to totally provide energy to the countries of Greece, Vietnam, and Peru for one year.
- It is estimated that TVs and VCRs turned off, but left plugged in cost the US over a billion dollars a year in wasted energy.
- Phantom loads are responsible for 1% of CO2 emissions.

Contact REMP by emailing us at irecycle@ithaca.edu for more fun facts and information regarding phantom loads.



Sneaky Phantom Loads...

The following appliances are phantom load offenders: instant on TVs, VCRs, stereos, computers, calculators, computer printers, satellite TVs, air conditioners, AC adapters, and anything with a clock in it, like a microwave.

The only way to stop this wasted energy is to unplug any appliance, or use a surge protecting power strip with a switch, that you are not using. Also, be a conscious consumer and look for energy efficient appliances. Look for appliances that have the energy star label to make sure you are buying the most energy efficient appliances available. This may cost more money upfront, but in the long run it will save you money. Energy Star products tend to last longer and use less energy than average