



## VAMPIRE VOLTAGE: ENERGY WASTE IS DRAINING

VAMPIRES MAY BE TRENDY, BUT  
VAMPIRE VOLTAGE IS NOT COOL.  
LEARN HOW TO BATTLE THIS  
ENERGY MONSTER.



**NEW YORK**  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY.

**Department  
of Public Service**

## BECOME A VAMPIRE VOLTAGE SLAYER

You can save as much as \$200 per year by learning how to identify vampire voltage and taking simple steps to stop energy waste.

Vampire voltage can be found all over your house—in the living room, bedroom, kitchen and even the bathroom. Vampire voltage (also called vampire energy, standby power and phantom plugload) describes the electricity that is being drawn by equipment and appliances that you're not actively using.

Ordinary items such as televisions, computers, cell phone chargers, microwaves and rechargeable toothbrushes drain electricity out of your outlets if left plugged in—even when they are turned off. These devices remain in standby mode, drawing electricity out of your sockets. And all this energy can add up to 15 percent of your home's electricity bill!

Reduce your energy waste and save money by finding and eliminating the vampires in your home.

### Identify the vampires:

An average New York home has between 20 and 40 energy-draining devices. These can be anything that uses electricity, but here are some dead giveaways:

- Devices that use remote controls like your TV, garage door, entertainment system and air conditioning units.
- Devices with digital displays, LED standby lights or digital clocks, like your microwave and cable box.
- Most chargers or power adapters, including those for cell phones, MP3 players, cameras, power tools and laptop chargers.
- Most kitchen appliances including microwaves, coffee makers and toaster ovens.



## Use these energy-saving techniques:

- **Unplug devices not in use:** The easiest way to eliminate energy waste is to unplug the vampire devices. In the kitchen, unplug small appliances such as coffee makers and toaster ovens. Unplug chargers when they are finished charging since most will continue to use electricity even after the item is fully charged—and even if nothing is plugged into them.
- **Turn off household appliances:** Your TV, computer and monitors are big energy wasters—even if they are in standby mode. By completely turning them off, you can reduce vampire voltage.
  - ▶ **Computer:** Turn off your computer if you are not going to use it for at least two hours. A bonus: the less time your PC spends on or in standby mode, the longer its life will be.
  - ▶ **Monitor:** Use the power management feature on your monitor to automatically turn it off when not in use for over 20 minutes.
  - ▶ **TV and entertainment system:** Unless your TV and entertainment system are connected to something with an off switch (like a power strip) they are on standby, continuing to use energy.
- **Use power strips:** Unplugging a vampire appliance is not always practical or convenient. Using a power strip allows you to shut off power to any devices plugged into it with the flick of a switch. Advanced smart power strips can allow you to cut power to some electronics (like your TV) but leave items like the cable box on so you won't lose programming memory.





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