

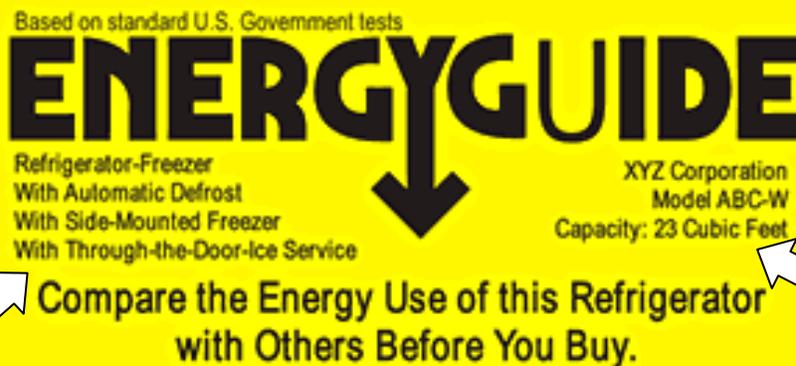
READING ENERGYGUIDE LABELS

When you're shopping for appliances, look for **EnergyGuide** labels. They will help you make an informed purchase regarding the energy efficiency of the appliance, and possibly help you save money over the life time of the appliance.

The yellow and black **EnergyGuide** labels appear on most energy-using products that are subject to minimum efficiency standards set by the federal government. For example, consumers will find them on refrigerator-freezers and freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, microwaves, water heaters, pool heaters, and air-conditioners just to name a few.

EnergyGuide labels may come in slightly different formats, varying appliance to appliance, but they are all easy to understand.

Under the headline EnergyGuide, the label describes the type of appliance it is - in this case, a refrigerator-freezer. It offers a brief description and the size - of this particular appliance.



The manufacturer, the model numbers that fit this description and the capacity.

The estimated amount of energy this model refrigerator will use in a year is spelled out - in this case, 644 kilowatt-hours a year

This Model Uses
644 kWh/year



A line scale showing the range of energy use in models of comparable size and type. Of those refrigerators being compared, the scale shows the least amount of energy used - in this case, 617 kilowatt-hours - and the most amount of energy used - 698 kilowatt-hours. A caret points out where this particular appliance falls along the range of energy costs.

Energy use (kWh/year) range of all similar models

Uses Least
Energy
617

Uses Most
Energy
698

A paragraph indicates the range of model sizes being compared.

kWh/year (kilowatt-hours per year) is a measure of energy (electricity) use. Your utility company uses it to compute your bill. Only models with 22.5 and 24.4 cubic feet and the above features are used in this scale.

Refrigerators using more energy cost more to operate.
This model's estimated yearly operating cost is:

\$53

Based on a 2001 U.S. Government national average cost of 8.294 per kWh for electricity. Your actual operating cost will vary depending on your local utility rates and your use of the product.

Important: Removal of this label before consumer purchase violates the Federal Trade Commission's Appliance Labeling Rule (16 C.F.R. Part 205).

Finally, the label tells you how much you can expect to spend each year in electricity costs, given the estimated kilowatt-hours this refrigerator uses, and the suggested cost of electricity. It also assumes this refrigerator will be operated under normal conditions. (Running it in a closed, unventilated garage in the middle of the Mojave Desert in the summer will obviously run up your electric bill.)

BEWARE The EnergyGuide label is a valuable tool for comparison - but beware of some limitations! In this case, the label compares models with a capacity between 22.5 and 24.4 cubic feet. That's a large range! In a sense, you're comparing small apples with big oranges. Think about the range..