

Phantom Power

A Greening Powassan Fact Sheet

Phantom power is the power you don't see, but costs you a lot. Phantom power is a dedicated supply of energy.

It is used by the appliances and technology that stay plugged in and even when off draws power. Think of it in terms of your television, a major source of phantom power. You turn it off, and with the press of one button on the remote it is instantly on. You see the full colour picture. It's the phantom power it uses when in the off position that allows you instant viewing because it keeps the picture "warm". Phantom power is typically five (5) watts per appliance or 3.5 kw per month if running 24/7.

For instance, Microwave clock vs Microwave use

Energy for the clock/day: 5 (watts) x 24 (hours) = 120 (watt-hours)

How long it takes the microwave to the same amount of energy:
 $120 \text{ watt-hours} / 1000 \text{ watts} = 0.12 \text{ hours, or } 7.2 \text{ minutes}$

This means that if you use a typical microwave oven for less than 7.2 minutes/day, the clock uses more electricity than the oven.

<http://michaelbluejay.com/electricity/transformers.html>

Now expand it to the rest of your home.

How many TV sets do you have plugged in that are using energy while your at work? How many clocks are plugged in at your house, including the alarm clocks, microwave, stove, DVD/VCR players?

Ways to reduce phantom power?

When at work or outside playing unplug the technology that uses phantom power such as;

- TV
- Microwaves
- Coffee makers (turn off when you know you're done)
- Don't leave your computer, monitor and printers on Standby, unplug them.
- Cellphone, battery, rechargeable tools chargers, don't leave them plugged in for longer than necessary.

Use a power bar for phantom power items. Plug them into the bar, then, when done, turn the power bar off. You'll lose the clock, but perhaps there is another one in the room, one on a battery even.

