



IQAP INSIGHTS

April 2019 | Issue 4



Running your refrigerator is essential, but it does use a lot of electricity! This month, we explore simple, free methods to help you save money and energy.

About Time-of-Day and refrigerators: Refrigerators run at a constant rate and are not impacted by Time-of-Day pricing. While it does cost more to run your refrigerator during on-peak hours, the lower off-peak rates even out the cost over the course of the day.

LEARN

The energy efficiency of your refrigerator depends on several factors. Newer models are much more efficient than older ones, and refrigerators that have a freezer on top or bottom are generally more efficient than models with side-by-side doors. Though you may not be able to change the type of refrigerator you have in your home, there are several energy-saving actions you can take for any model.

ACT

Is your refrigerator the right temperature?

Check the temperature by placing a thermometer in a cup of water and placing in the refrigerator for at least two hours. The temperature should be between 38 and 40 degrees. For the freezer, place the thermometer between two food items for at least two hours. The freezer temperature should be between 0 and 5 degrees.

Is your refrigerator or freezer too warm or too cold? Adjust the temperature knob and allow 24 hours for the new temperature to stabilize.

Is your refrigerator in the right location?

Your refrigerator should not be in a cramped space and should have room around the sides and back to allow for air circulation. This will prevent the refrigerator from working harder to maintain a low temperature.

Is your refrigerator clean?

There are several parts of your refrigerator that should be clean and not blocked to ensure efficiency:

- Air vents in the freezer should not be blocked and should be clean of crumbs or other debris.
- Don't allow frost to build up more than one-quarter inch, as this can decrease the energy efficiency of the unit. Frost can be easily removed by *unplugging* your freezer and carefully scraping the frost with an ice scraper.

[continued on reverse]

GET A FREE THERMOMETER

- Come to Earth Day Fort Collins and pick one up from the Utilities booth.
 - April 20
11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Civic Center Park
- Stop by the Customer Service window.
 - Utilities Administration Building
222 Laporte Ave.
- Contact us and we will send one to you.
 - Email: utilitiesaffordability@fcgov.com
 - Call: 970-416-2032

ACT

Is your refrigerator clean? [continued]

- The rubber gaskets lining the doors of your refrigerator should be clean to ensure they seal properly.
- The condenser coils are located either on the front of your refrigerator near the floor or on the back. These should be vacuumed and/or cleaned with a coil brush, as they often get covered by dust and pet hair.

Food storage matters

- Cover foods and liquids. Uncovered foods release moisture and make your refrigerator work harder.
- Let hot food cool down a bit before placing in the refrigerator. This will make it easier for your refrigerator to maintain its temperature. Note: For safety, do not let food sit out longer than one hour.
- A full refrigerator is more efficient since the contents actually “hold the cold.” Placing a gallon of water in your refrigerator can help your refrigerator maintain a stable temperature.



QUICK TIPS

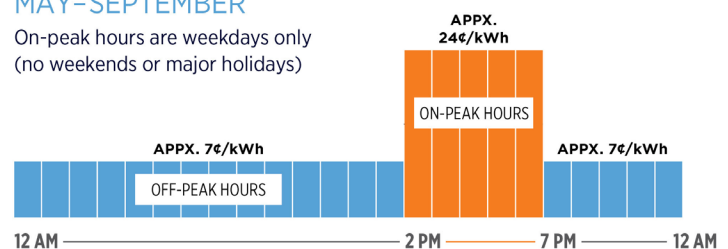
- **Try to keep the refrigerator closed.** Think about what you want to take out of the refrigerator before you open it, and keep the door open for as little time as possible.
- **Make sure the door seals are airtight.** You can test this by closing the door over a piece of paper so it is half in and half out of the refrigerator. If you can easily pull out the paper, the latch may need adjusting or the seal may need replacing.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Step-by-step instructions for cleaning/maintaining different components of your refrigerator – fcgov.com/fridge
- The Department of Energy has great tips for saving energy in your kitchen – fcgov.com/kitchen-savings
- Getting a new refrigerator? Recycle your old one and receive a check for \$35, and we'll arrange to have it hauled away for free – fcgov.com/fridge-recycle
- Children in Need, April 12, 7 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Northside Aztlan Center – www.homewardalliance.org/children-in-need/
- Time-of-Day on-peak hours shift soon! On-peak hours are 2-7 p.m. (weekdays), May through September.

SUMMER MAY–SEPTEMBER

On-peak hours are weekdays only
(no weekends or major holidays)



If you use more than 700 kWh of electricity a month, you will be billed an additional \$0.0194 (1.94¢) per kWh over 700 kWh (except for all-electric heat homes). Pricing details: fcgov.com/TOD

NEED ASSISTANCE? Email utilitiesaffordability@fcgov.com or call 970-416-2032.

Esta información sobre el programa “Income-Qualified Assistance Program”, que ofrece una tarifa de luz y agua a descuento, puede ser traducida, sin costo para usted, 970-212-2900.