



The master switch can cut standby power losses

Solutions to Standby Power

WHAT IS STANDBY POWER?

Standby power is consumed by an appliance when it is plugged in but not in operation. Many appliances use energy even when they are not in use simply to maintain a convenient 'ready' or 'standby' state. If an appliance has a glowing light, responds to a remote or is warm to touch when not in use, then it is in standby mode and consuming power.

This includes a television switched off by remote control that is awaiting an instruction from the remote to reactivate; or a computer that is shut down, but not off at the wall switch.

WHY SWITCH OFF?

By simply switching off at the main switch or wall socket after each use, you could save over 600 kilograms of greenhouse gas per year – that's the equivalent of planting five trees and maintaining them for 100 years. Also, standby power is about 10% of the typical household energy bill which costs you about \$150 a year for things you're not even using!

Switch off everything except your reticulation controller, DVD player and a clock and each year:



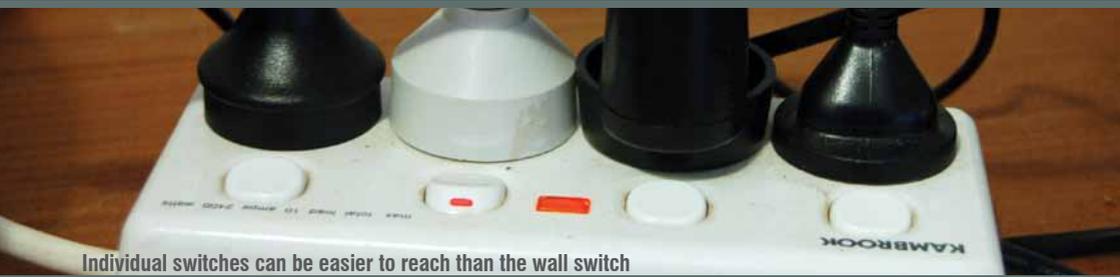
HOW CAN I REDUCE STANDBY POWER?

Manual Solutions

- If the appliance has a master switch (like the power button on the front of many television sets) switch that off.
- If there is no master switch – turn it off at the wall (no need to unplug from the socket).
- If the wall socket is hard to reach – buy a power board with individual switches that can be put in an easy to reach position.
- If several appliances have clocks on them – choose the ones to turn off (perhaps switch the microwave and radio off at the wall, but keep the oven clock on).



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Individual switches can be easier to reach than the wall switch

- Group appliances that can be switched off and those that can't on separate power boards.



TANYA'S TIP:

Label your power boards and cords so that you don't accidentally turn off appliances such as computers or clocks when in use.

Automatic solutions

Several power saving devices are available from your local hardware store or by searching online.

- Remote controlled and foot pedal power boards enable you to turn standby power off easily. Although having the remote function does consume some power, the overall saving outweighs the energy usage.
- Standby power saver products are now available that detect when

appliances are in standby mode and automatically switch them off after five minutes

- Check energy ratings when buying new appliances. For more on energy ratings go to www.energyrating.gov.au.

DO I HAVE TO TURN EVERYTHING OFF?

Wasted power is reduced by turning off everything that is not in use (such as entertainment, office, whitegoods and heating/cooling equipment). Choose to leave on just the things that are time controlled (like reticulation and video recorders).

HINT – place the Living Smart door hanger on the bathroom or front door to remind you to switch everything off last thing at night or when you go out.

During 2010/11, Living Smart will be offered to around 10,000 households in Perth's eastern region as part of the Perth Solar City program. For more information on this Australian Government initiative, please call 1300 993 268 or visit perthsolarcity.com.au. The Living Smart Ambassadors are Tanya Ha (expert in environmental living and the author of *Greenology* and *Green Stuff for Kids*) and Josh Byrne (sustainability specialist, presenter on ABC TV's *Gardening Australia* program and author of *The Green Gardener*). The information in this brochure is provided in good faith. However the accuracy or appropriateness of the information is not guaranteed. The Living Smart brand has been developed by The Meeting Place Community Centre, the City of Fremantle, Murdoch University and Southern Metropolitan Regional Council to support a suite of programs developing capacity in community sustainability.