



## CITY OF CAPE TOWN RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICITY CUSTOMERS HOW TO REDUCE YOUR ELECTRICITY ACCOUNT

Customers charged at the Lifeline Tariff and who receive up to 250 kWh per month on average will receive the free basic supply of 60 kWh (included in the 250 kWh per month average). Customers charged at the Lifeline Tariff and who receive between 250 kWh and 450 kWh per month on average will receive 25 kWh free (included in the 450 per month average).

NOTE: The kWh average can be determined from the average monthly receipts over any consecutive 12-month period.

Before considering ways and means of reducing your electricity account one should first consider the cost of operating the various types of domestic appliances.

The following table details the average cost of electricity consumed by various classes of electrical appliances and other consuming devices in the home. (Kindly note that all tariffs and costs indicated in this document are inclusive of VAT, and that the Home User tariff will also have a fixed service charge which is not taken into account here).

### TARIFF CATEGORIES:

**A: Lifeline (ALL kWh):** ..... **237.08c/kWh**  
**B: Domestic Block 1 (0-600 kWh):** ..... **390.70c/kWh**  
**C: Home User Block 1 (0-600 kWh):** ..... **343.51c/kWh**  
**D: Domestic and Home User Tariffs Block 2:** ..... **475.39c/kWh**

Appliance/Device		Rating (kW)	Cat A	Cat B	Cat C	Cat D
Lamps	100W	0.1	23.71	39.07	34.35	47.54
	75W	0.075	17.78	29.30	25.76	35.65
	60W	0.06	14.22	23.44	20.61	28.52
	40W	0.04	9.48	15.63	13.74	19.02
	20W	0.02	4.74	7.81	6.87	9.51
	14W	0.014	3.32	5.47	4.81	6.66
	10W	0.01	2.37	3.91	3.44	4.75
	8W	0.008	1.90	3.13	2.75	3.80
Stove			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Small hot plate	high	1.5	355.62	586.05	515.27	713.09
	low	0.375	88.91	146.51	128.82	178.27
Large hot plate	high	2	474.16	781.40	687.02	950.78
	low	0.5	118.54	195.35	171.76	237.70
Oven	200C	2	474.16	781.40	687.02	950.78
Dishwasher		1	237.08	390.70	343.51	475.39
Electric Blanket	preheat	0.05	11.85	19.54	17.18	23.77
	all night	0.02	4.74	7.81	6.87	9.51
Electric Frying Pan		355.62	586.05	515.27	713.09	355.62
Fan		16.60	27.35	24.05	33.28	16.60
Vacuum Cleaner		237.08	390.70	343.51	475.39	237.08
Hair Dryer		118.54	195.35	171.76	237.70	118.54

Hifi		47.42	78.14	68.70	95.08	47.42
Hot Water	Bath	3.3	790.27	1302.33	1145.03	1584.63
	Shower	1.7	395.13	651.17	572.52	792.32
Iron		0.5	118.54	195.35	171.76	237.70
Kettle		2	474.16	781.40	687.02	950.78
Microwave	900W	0.9	213.37	351.63	309.16	427.85
PC		0.05	11.85	19.54	17.18	23.77
Power Drill		0.25	59.27	97.68	85.88	118.85
Deep Freeze		0.2	47.42	78.14	68.70	95.08
Refrigerator		0.1	23.71	39.07	34.35	47.54
Sewing Machine		0.07	16.60	27.35	24.05	33.28
Slow Cooker		0.15	35.56	58.61	51.53	71.31
Space Heating	1 Bar	1	237.08	390.70	343.51	475.39
	2 Bar	2	474.16	781.40	687.02	950.78
	Panel	0.4	94.83	156.28	137.40	190.16
Swimming Pool	750W	0.75	177.81	293.03	257.63	356.54
Television Set		0.3	71.12	117.21	103.05	142.62
Tumble Drier		3	711.24	1172.10	1030.53	1426.17
Washing Machine	hot	1	237.08	390.70	343.51	475.39
	cold	0.5	118.54	195.35	171.76	237.70
Wellpoint	1kW	1	237.08	390.70	343.51	475.39

Note: 1 kW = 1000 Watts and 1 kWh = 1 unit which is equivalent to 1000 Watts being used for 1 hour or 500 Watts for two hours or 2000 Watts for 0,5 hours.

Due to the water heater having an element of relatively high rating and this element being energised for long periods each day the water heater is the largest user of electricity of all the equipment in a normal house. The next largest users of electricity are the stove and in some household's space heaters in winter. Therefore, by reducing the use of the hot water cylinder, stove and space heaters, an appreciable reduction in total overall consumption can be made.

### **Hot Water Cylinder**

1. Instruct all household members, particularly servants and children, in the economical use of hot water.
2. When bathing, use as little water as possible, or better still have a shower.
3. Do not wash one cup at a time under the hot tap but rather stack the dirty dishes and wash them together in the sink at the same time.
4. Do not allow hot water taps to drip.
5. Have the hot water cylinder thermostat set as low as the household's hot water demand will permit.
6. Switch off the cylinder when not in use, for example at night, or should the family go out to work during the day, the cylinder could be switched off in the morning (use a timer to ensure that the cylinder only switches on for a period prior to hot water being required). More importantly, switch off the cylinder when away for relatively long periods, such as when on holiday.
7. Recommended temperature setting is 55°C.

### **Stove**

1. When the water has boiled, turn the heat down as low as possible so that the water just keeps boiling. Do not cook food with the controls set higher than absolutely necessary.
2. It is cheaper to heat water in a kettle than to heat it in a pot on the stove.
3. Do not cook food for longer than necessary.
4. Make sure that the bottoms of pots and frying pans are flat so that good contact can be obtained between the stove plates and the pots/pans.

5. For stoves with the heavy solid plates which retain their heat, switch off the plate a few minutes before removing the pot.
6. Small pots should be heated on the stove's small plates to avoid unnecessary heat loss.
7. A microwave oven is cheaper to operate than a stove.

#### **Refrigerators and Deep Freezers**

1. Open the refrigerator or deep freeze door as little and for as short a period as possible.
2. Do not place hot food in the refrigerator or deep freeze. Allow it to cool externally first.
3. Ensure that door seals are in good condition.

#### **Space Heaters and Air Conditioners**

1. Sit as close as practically possible to a heater to avoid as far as possible the need to have both elements switched on together.
2. Switch off the heater when leaving the room for any length of time.
3. When using heaters or air conditioners, limit or restrict as far as possible the opening of windows.
4. Curtains help to retain the heat in a room. Draw the curtains early in the evening especially during cold weather.
5. It is cheaper to use an electric blanket than to heat the bedroom with a heater.

#### **Other Electrical Appliances and Lights**

1. When using a kettle, do not fill it right to the top if you only intend making one cup of tea.
2. Store excess hot water from the kettle in a vacuum flask for the odd cup of coffee or for washing up later.
3. Dishwashers and washing machines should only be used when one has a full load to wash and not just a few items.
4. Do not leave lights burning unnecessarily.
5. Survey your incandescent lights for opportunities to replace them with compact fluorescents or LED lamps. These lamps can save three-quarters of the electricity or more used by incandescent lamps and have a much longer operating life. The best targets are 60-100W bulbs used several hours a day.

#### **Swimming Pools**

1. Operate the filter pump for minimum periods.
2. During winter algae growth is restricted and the use of the filter cleaning system can be limited to once every few days.

#### **GENERAL**

**To minimise the load on the electrical network in the country try to avoid the use of high consuming appliances during the evening peak hours of 16:00 to 22:00. These appliances include heaters, air conditioners, stoves, hot water geysers, tumble dryers, washing machines, dishwashers and swimming pool pumps.**

**For more hints on saving electricity, please go to [www.savingelectricity.org.za](http://www.savingelectricity.org.za) or contact the City's call centre on 086 010 3089.**