

# How to use the Kill-A-Watt to determine power usage

1. Plug the Kill-A-Watt into a standard AC outlet.
2. Plug the electronic device you want to check into the outlet on the Kill-A-Watt.
3. The Kill-A-Watt will start tracking how much power the plugged-in device consumes. The amount is calculated in kilowatt hours (kWh), the same unit that the electric company uses to figure your bill.



4. You can see the total elapsed kWh by pressing the pink button on the Kill-A-Watt. If you press the pink button again, the Kill-A-Watt will display the elapsed time. (The other buttons are useful for other things, but you don't need them to track power consumption.) *For more accurate data, let the Kill-A-Watt run for several hours.*

5. To determine the dollar cost of the device's power consumption, multiply the elapsed kWh by the rate on your electric bill. (This can be tricky, as CMP bills now show two rates, one for the power and another for delivery. You need to add them both to get the total rate. Or you can skip the math and just say \$.16 per kWh, the approximate home rate as of Jan. 2009. On campus, the rate is a bit lower, closer to \$.14/kWh.)

6. If you want to know how much power the device consumes each day, divide the elapsed kWh by the elapsed hours, and multiply that rate times 24 hours.

For example, say the Kill-A-Watt reveals that your fridge uses .25 kWh in 3 hours.

.25 kWh divided by 3 hours is .0833 kWh/hour, and .0833 times 24 hours is 2 kWh/day.

If each kWh costs \$.16, then the fridge consumes \$.32 worth of power each day, or \$116.80/year.