

## CONSERVING YOUR POWER: IS THERE A VAMPIRE IN YOUR HOUSE?



- Devices with "Instant on" functions, with remote control receivers, or waiting for the user to interact.
- Devices with a stand-by light or clock
- Power adapters
- Some home video game consoles (e.g. Nintendo Wii, Microsoft Xbox 360 & Sony PlayStation 3)

There are several easy-to-implement ways to reduce standby power in your home or office. The first and easiest way is to simply unplug the unused devices. When it comes to switching off multiple devices that are often used together such as a PC, a monitor and a printer consider using a switchable power bar or surge protector with multiple sockets. Another option to consider is buying energy saving devices or devices that offer a real off switch. Timers can also be used to turn off standby power to devices that are unused on a regular schedule. So, if you are concerned about vampire power in your home or office, save the garlic for your favorite dish and look into energy saving ideas on-line at: [www.greenswitch.tv](http://www.greenswitch.tv) or [www.watthackers.com/wp/10-energy-saving-devices-to-put-your-house-on-a-diet/](http://www.watthackers.com/wp/10-energy-saving-devices-to-put-your-house-on-a-diet/).

## IQ TEST: FAMILY ENVIRONMENTAL TEST



Put your environmental knowledge to the test with this Energy and Recycling Quiz to see if you are really living as green a lifestyle as you believe. Are you an eco-friendly intellectual, or do you need to study up some more? Continue on to find out!

In recent years, the concept of vampire power has caught the attention of homeowners and business owners alike, but not in the "run and find some garlic" sense you may be thinking. When it comes to the conservation of resources, "vampire power" (also referred to as standby power, vampire draw, phantom load, or leaking electricity) refers to the electric power consumed by electronic appliances while they are switched off or in a standby mode. A very common "electricity vampire" is a power adapter which has no power-off switch. Some such devices offer remote controls and digital clock features to the user, while other devices, such as power adapters for laptop computers and other electronic devices, consume power without offering any features. Standby power is typically 10 to 15 watts per device but the sum of all such devices within the household becomes significant when added to the homes' miscellaneous electric load, which also includes small appliances, security systems, and other small power draws. The following list gives examples of devices and functions that can consume standby power in the home and in the office.

- Power supplies, transformers and inefficient electronic devices
- VCRs, DVD players and some audio systems
- TVs and Set-top boxes
- Microwave ovens
- Computers, digital monitors and printers
- Air conditioning systems with remote control

