

# A Kilo-WHAT?

## Deciphering Energy Guide Lingo

(NAPSA)—Gone are the days when the only thing you needed to know about buying a new appliance was whether harvest gold or avocado best matched your décor.

Today's appliance shoppers have a laundry list of facts to consider. Due to rising energy costs and shortages, an appliance's energy efficiency is a deciding factor for many shoppers. Some appliance manufacturers have re-engineered their products to provide better energy savings. For example, the new Energy Star-rated Maytag Neptune® washer requires half the energy of older models and still delivers superior cleaning results.

Although the facts and figures to assess the energy savings of a new appliance are prominently displayed, understanding them requires a quick lesson in energy lingo.

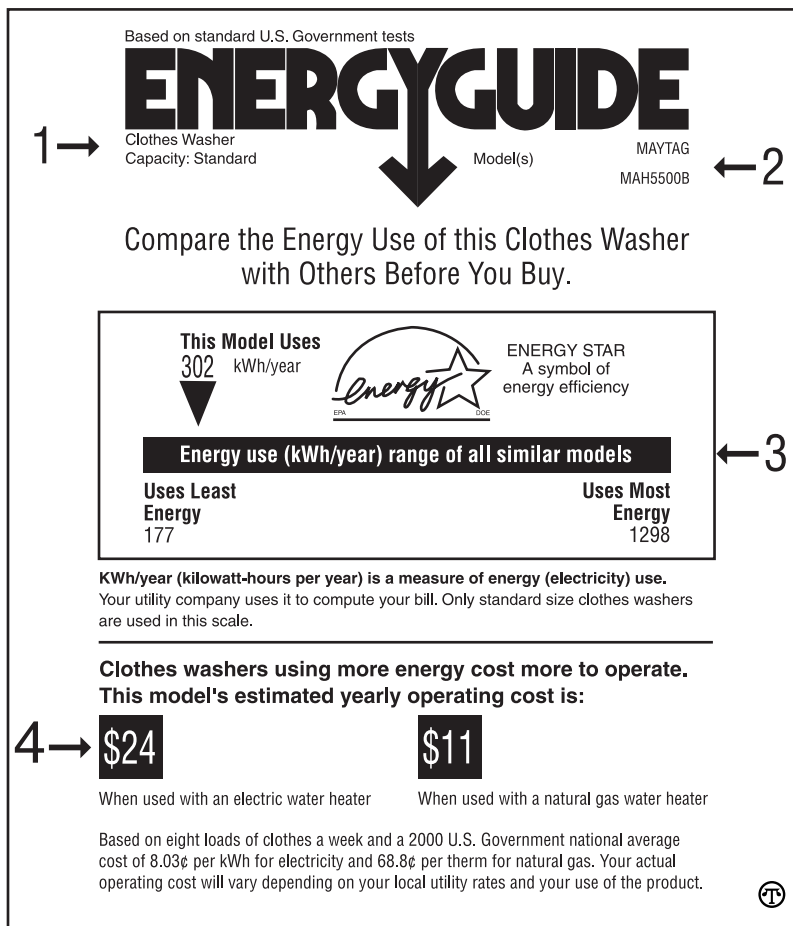
More than 20 years ago, the U.S. government implemented a program to make it easy for consumers to take one look at an appliance and assess its energy efficiency. This treasure trove of information is a bright yellow and black Energy Guide sticker affixed to refrigerators, freezers, water heaters, dishwashers, clothes washers, central and room air conditioners, heat pumps, furnaces and boilers. It doesn't tell consumers what to buy, but provides unbiased facts to make an informed choice.

Let's say your trusty washing machine has spun its last spin cycle. Your neighborhood appliance store offers rows of sparkling new machines, but soon they start to blur together. You walk up to a sleek looking Maytag Neptune high-efficiency washer and read the Energy Guide label. Here's a step-by-step translation:

1. This is an overview of the general appliance category.

2. This string of numbers is the manufacturer's model number.

3. Here's the most important, but most confusing, information. The thick black line in the center is a scale representing how much electricity is needed to power different washer models. The number above the line shows how much energy the Maytag Neptune uses.



Below the line are two additional numbers showing two anonymous appliances. They represent the lowest and highest energy users in the clothes washer category.

Energy is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh), which is equal to 1,000 watt hours. It takes 1 kWh to cook a pot of rice for an hour. On average, American households use approximately 10,000 kWh per year. The Maytag Neptune requires 302 kWh/year, which is 77 percent less energy than the most energy hungry model, which draws 1,298 kWh/year.

4. In this section, we're down to dollars and cents. This section explains you can expect to pay approximately \$24 annually to power the Neptune. For some appliances, like clothes washers, the Energy Guide will provide figures for both electric and gas models.

When thinking about the annual expense of an appliance, another icon to look for is the Energy Star logo. Created by the U.S. Department of Energy and

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Energy Star logo is awarded to products that exceed federal energy conservation requirements. For clothes washers, the appliance must use 50 to 70 percent less energy than conventional models. The logo can be seen on everything from computer monitors to refrigerators and light bulbs to windows.

The type of conservation benefits an energy-efficient appliance provides add up to more than energy savings. Your utility bills shrink, too. The Maytag Neptune is designed to conserve 65 percent of the energy and 40 percent of the water when compared to traditional top-loading washing machines. These savings can add up to \$100 a year in energy and water costs.

Armed with an understanding of the Energy Guide lingo, you're now ready to take a savvy look at new appliances and make choices that are not only smart for you, but the environment too.