

Appliances and EnergyGuide Labels



Question

Do you have energy efficient appliances?

Materials

- Thermometer
- Dollar bill

Procedure

1. With the help of an adult, test the seal on the door of your refrigerator. To do this, you will need a dollar bill. Close the door over the dollar bill so that it is half in and half out of the refrigerator. Grasp the end of the bill with both hands by the corners and pull slowly and steadily. Do not try to jerk it; it might tear.

- _____ comes out easily
- _____ comes out fairly easily
- _____ comes out with difficulty
- _____ does not move

2. Use a refrigerator thermometer to measure the temperature of your refrigerator and freezer and record in the chart below.

APPLIANCE	TEMPERATURE	SAFE ZONE (°F)
Refrigerator		37°-40°
Freezer Section		0°-5°
Separate Freezer		0° or Colder

3. Look around your house for large or small appliances that have ENERGY STAR® labels on them. Explain to your family that the ENERGY STAR® means the appliances meet strict energy efficiency standards. What ENERGY STAR® appliances did you find?

4. Take a trip with your family to a store that sells large appliances, such as refrigerators, and bring a piece of paper and writing utensil. Find two models of the same appliance such as refrigerators, dishwashers, or clothes washers. Record information from the EnergyGuide labels of the two models. Make sure that one appliance of each set is an energy efficient model. Make sure you also record the price of each appliance. You may also "shop" for these items online and download the labels for comparing. When you return home calculate the payback period of the energy efficient model.



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