

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS



Brennan Gilbert, Design Blog

Green Tip: *Vampire Plugs*

Vampire plugs refer to the electricity consumed by electronic appliances while they are switched off or in a standby mode. A common "electricity vampire" is a power adapter which has no power-off switch. Bigger electronics, like televisions and stereos, run in a standby mode that draws electricity continuously, while cell phone chargers and the like draw electricity if they remain plugged-in after the charging is complete.

Vampire plugs can add up to \$100 a year in electricity charges, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). On average, these phantom loads cost Americans \$10 billion in energy costs, demand 100 billion kilowatt hours of electricity, and result in 50 million tons of climate altering greenhouse gases emitted each year.

To put an end to **vampire plugs** the EPA recommends:

1. Unplug power adapters, battery chargers and other similar items whenever the equipment is fully charged or disconnected from the charger.
2. Plug electronics into power strips so that you can turn them off completely when not in use.
3. Buy products that are highly rated by the federal Energy Star program.

The biggest phantom loads in most homes come from televisions — particularly flat-screen plasma types — desktop computers and their ancillary equipment such as printers, scanners, stereos and sound system equipment.

Check out this spooky “vampire power” video @ www.vampirepowersucks.com and spread the word! **“Stop the feeding, slay the Vampires!”**

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

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