



energy use reduction [phantom loads]



Phantom power is the term used to describe the standby power load our electrical appliances and devices consume while they are switched off (some people call it “vampire power”, vampire draw, or electrical leak). We were amazed when we found out how much power our devices consumed without offering any features.

Kill-A-Watt

The Kill-A-Watt device allows you to connect to any appliance and figure out how much power it is consuming ... even when it is “sleeping”. We first did this in our previous home as an educational exercise as to see how much of our energy bill was waste electricity. We had over 200 Watts of “waste” electricity for flashing “12:00” and little red lights. For our net-zero energy house that equated to us having to add another 4 solar panels! [Note that the Kill-A-Watt device can be picked up at Canadian Tire]



The Switch

We knew that it was unlikely that our kids (or us for that matter) would fully unplug a lamp, toy or DVD player after each use. Rather than set ourselves up for failure we decided to design a switch into each bedroom that would deal with this ugly waste when we left a room. Each bedroom has the lower electrical sockets wired to a switch adjacent to the main light switch. This design feature was suggested by our builder as it has worked successfully on past projects.

Typical Room

Laptop power supplies, cell phone chargers, stereos and TV’s will be plugged into the switched socket. Lamps and alarm clocks will be continuously energized for convenience and keeping time.

