

Practice matters

Dear reader, this month we are going to focus on the economics of your household with specific reference to energy consumption.

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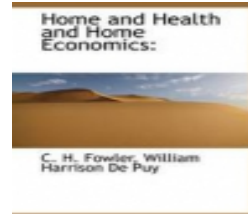
Green tip

Switch your geyser on for no more than two hours a day and wrap it in an insulation blanket. You could request your electrician to install a timer device. Alternatively, install a solar panel which will pay back in 3-4 years time. Using gas for cooking will only cost you around R 600 per year as you will need two 19 kg bottles.

Books, Movies & Events

Home and Health and Home Economics. By Richardson, 2009.

The subject of home economics has come a long way since "Home and Health and home Economics, A Cyclopaedia of facts and hints for all departments of home life, Health and Domestic Economy" was published in 1879 by Charles H Fowler and William Harrison De Puy.



Quote for the month

The mouth makes debt, but the arm pays. Ewe, West African proverb.

What's news

With electricity bills set to continue escalating, herewith a guide to illustrate the energy consumption of the various elements in and around the house. Measured in kWh (kilowatt hour) units per month.

Air conditioner	600,0		Oven bake	19,0
Hot water geyser	300,0		Oven braai	16,5
Two plate stove	210,0		Lamp (100w)	15,0
Heaters	200,0		Television (51cm)	14,4
Dishwasher	135,0		Computer	10,8
Stove big plate	120,0		M-Net decoder	10,1
Fridge & freezer	107,3		Lamp (60w)	9,0
Freezer	64,4		Electrical mower	8,0
Pool pump	60,0		Hi-Fi system	5,4
Microwave oven	58,5		Cassette player	2,2
Kettle	32,4		Video machine	2,1
Stove small plate	22,5		DVD player	0,8

Lifestyle

The good news is that you may play music on your CD player all day long since it consumes less energy than any other instrument in your household at a mere 0,30 kWh per month.

Create a spread sheet or excel document on your real household expenditure. Update this every three months. You will be surprised at the growth in monthly overheads without any change in your lifestyle. This record is useful to assess and adjust your budget and expenditure regularly.

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