



# E<sup>3</sup>A: Solar Electricity for the Home, Farm or Ranch

## Steps in the Solar Electricity Series

## Building and Site Assessment

## Conservation and Efficiency

## System Options

## System Components

## System Sizing

## Costs

# Installation

## Operation and Maintenance

# **Electricity Use Worksheet**

## Electricity use worksheet

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Calculated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Original work created by Montana State University Extension and the University of Wyoming.  
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An electrical device has a metal plate or sticker showing wattage on or near the back or side. If not shown, multiply the amperes (amps) by the voltage to get wattage.

Most U.S. appliances use 120 volts. Larger appliances (electric clothes dryers and cooktops) use 240 volts.

- **Refrigerators:** Because they cycle on and off to maintain a set temperature, divide the total time the refrigerator is plugged in by three.
  - **Phantom Loads** are electrical loads used by devices even when they are turned off. These loads can increase a device's consumption by up to 15 watts. Avoid this unnecessary standby consumption by unplugging electronics and appliances when not in use or by plugging them into a surge protector and using its on/off switch.