

# Apartment Hunting?

Rent Isn't Your Only Cost

## YOUR TOTAL COST OF OCCUPANCY

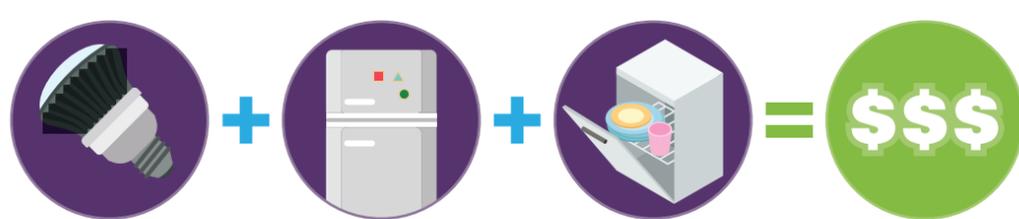
When searching for an apartment, the monthly rental rate is likely your number one priority.

However, utilities can represent a significant monthly expense (often between 10-15% of your rent). To really understand the cost of living in one apartment versus another, it's important to consider not just the monthly cost of rent, but also the monthly cost of utilities.



## WHAT DETERMINES YOUR MONTHLY UTILITY BILLS?

The efficiency of appliances and products in your apartment such as lighting, heating, air conditioners, refrigerators, and water heaters determines your monthly energy bill. Likewise, the flow and flush rates of plumbing equipment like your toilet and shower can impact your monthly water bill.



## HOW THE NUMBERS ADD UP

Let's compare two apartments. **Apartment A** contains conventional appliances and products while **Apartment B** contains ENERGY STAR® certified appliances and products. Assuming rental costs and your daily patterns are identical, renting Apartment B can save you up to \$675 a year or over \$55 a month.



## ASK ABOUT ENERGY STAR®

### SAVE MONEY ON MONTHLY LIVING EXPENSES

During your apartment search, ask the leasing agent at each property you're considering the following questions to better understand your total cost of occupancy:

1. What are my estimated monthly utility bills?
2. Does my apartment have ENERGY STAR® Certified Appliances & Products?
3. Is this apartment building ENERGY STAR® Certified?

Inspect the appliances during your apartment tour to see if they display the ENERGY STAR® label. You can also request documentation about ENERGY STAR® certifications or other sustainability initiatives at the apartment building. **Find more tips and information at [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov).**

To see a list of ENERGY STAR® certified apartment buildings, visit [energystar.gov/buildinglist](http://energystar.gov/buildinglist) and choose "Multifamily Housing" from the dropdown list of facility types.

EPA's ENERGY STAR® is the simple choice for energy efficiency. Join the millions across America already making a difference at [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov).

