

REFRIDGERATION and HEATING

1. IT'S A FACT- DOORS ON OPEN CABINETS WILL SAVE BETWEEN 30% - 60% ON RUNNING COSTS. WE APPRECIATE THAT NOT ALL EXISTING CABINETS CAN BE RETROFITTED BUT YOU NEED TO GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO REPLACING ENERGY-GUZZLING OPEN DISPLAYS. THE CONCERN YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT A BARRIER TO IMPULSE OR CONVENIENCE IS OUTWEIGHED MANY TIMES OVER BY THE FINANCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS.
2. IF YOUR CABINETS DO NOT HAVE DOORS, DO YOU HAVE COVERS FOR OPEN FROZEN FOOD OR DUMP FRIDGES FOR NIGHT-TIME?
3. ARE YOUR MINERAL AND BEER COOLERS TURNED OFF AT NIGHT? SOME STORES DO NOT POWER ON THEIR BEER COOLERS UNTIL 12 NOON.
4. CAN YOU ALTER THE TEMPERATURES OF YOUR CABINETS TO RUN A DEGREE OR TWO WARMERS (while adhering to food safety laws)? ITS REASONABLE TO SUGGEST THAT YOU COULD RUN A MINERAL COOLER AT 6 degrees RATHER THAN 4 degrees.
5. IS THE WATER HEATING ON A TIMER? COULD YOU SHAVE AN HOUR OFF EITHER START OR END TIME?
6. DO YOU CLEAN THE FRIDGES AND COMPRESSORS REGULARLY? DON'T BLOCK VENTS OR OVERLOAD CABINETS.
7. WHAT TIMES ARE YOUR DEFROST CYCLES? DO NOT HAVE DEFROST BETWEEN 5-7PM. REMEMBER THAT AN ICE BUILUP ON ICE CREAM CABINETS FORCES THEM TO WORK HARDER, INCURRING EXTRA COSTS.
8. AIR CONDITIONING- IS EACH UNIT ON ITS OWN SEPARATE CONTROLLER? HAVE YOU USED THE SETTINGS TO RESTRICT TURNING IT UP TOO HIGH? ARE YOU USING POWER SAVER MODE? IT IS A VERY SIMPLE EXERCISE TO CLEAN THE FILTERS OF THE UNITS, IT IMPROVES EFFICIENCY AND REDUCES CONSUMPTION.

EXTERNAL

ARE YOUR SIGNAGE AND CAR PARK LIGHTS SET TO GO OFF AFTER YOU CLOSE THE STORE EACH EVENING? THERE IS VERY LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT KEEPING THE AREA FULLY LIT WILL REDUCE THE CHANCES OF A BREAK-IN.

DELI

1. HAVE YOU AUTOMATIC TAPS IN FRESH FOOD AREAS AND TOILETS THAT PREVENT THOSE USING THEM FROM LEAVING A HOT TAP RUNNING?
2. ARE EXTRA UNDER-COUNTER HOT WATER BOILERS ON TIMERS? CAN THE POWER SETTING BE REDUCED, EVEN A LITTLE?

COLD ROOMS

YOU SHOULD CONSIDER FITTING PLASTIC STRIP CURTAINS TO COLD ROOM DOORS.

THINGS TO CHECK

1. Is your meter working, ok? Have YOU verified readings? If your meter is damaged or obsolete, it can be replaced without charge.
2. Are you on the correct Tariff? Is the MIC (Maximum Import Capacity) It is set correctly? It should be set with 10% spare capacity as there are very expensive penalties if demand exceeds MIC. On the other hand, if the MIC is unrealistically high(perhaps due to a change of energy requirements over the years) then you pay an unnecessarily inflated PSO Levy.
3. Have you fitted a power factor correction unit? Ask you electrician to provide one, you will reap the benefit of the outlay very quickly.
4. Knowledge is power, and you should acquire all the data about your usage from your energy providers website. It allows you to pinpoint times and days where usage may have been high allowing you the opportunity to investigate and, if necessary, correct any costly activities.
5. Finally, are all your printers turned off at night? In the office, are the photocopiers and computers turned off? Are you on power saving on the PC?