

Domestic appliances

Until 20th century people had to do work around the house manually. Today, electronic appliances can help with almost every type of household chore.

An appliance is an electronic device that converts electric energy to a different type of energy. Energy cannot be created nor destroyed. It can only be changed to a different type of energy. Based on energy source appliances can be powered by electrical current (electric appliances) or by natural gas (gas appliances).

An electrical appliance is an electrical device used in households, workshops, etc. They need electrical power to function.

Electrical energy is converted to:

- light
- mechanical movement
- heat
- chemical processes

Appliances that do complex functions perform more complicated form of energy transformation. Energy transformation cannot be easily described. Appliances are usually equipped with electrical circuits. We call them electronic appliances. These are computers, TVs, cell phones, video cameras and so on.

When purchasing an appliance important factors to consider are power rating, energy consumption and price. The customer should pay special attention to energy consumption because energy cost can be a prohibitive factor.



Light enables us to work anytime. Light energy is created using sources of electric light such as:

- light bulb
- compact fluorescent light bulb
- LED diode



Mechanical movement, such as rotation or sliding often represents a monotonous and hard work. Electrical appliances capable of mechanical movement make difficult work easier for us. Some examples are: mixer, washing machine, dryer, vacuum cleaner, drill and so on.

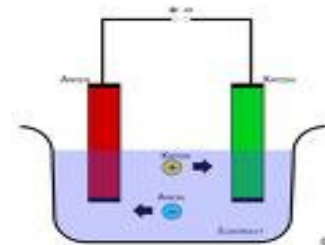




Heat can not only create a pleasant feeling but it is also used for cooking, baking, water heating, ironing, curing and so on. Heat is created by moving atoms. Joule-Lenz law says that heat is created when an electric current passes through a resistor.

Most common domestic heat appliances are hot plates, irons, heaters, blow-dryers, microwaves, refrigerators, freezers and so on. Note: to cool something down, heat needs to be removed.

When recharging batteries, electrical energy is transformed into chemical process and, in turn, the accumulator can transfer it back into electrical energy.



The following appliances belong to special group:
Audio-Video technology, computers, phones, electrical toys, security devices and so on.



Recycling

When purchasing a new appliance, the old appliances are to be recycled and not thrown out to a municipal landfill. Electronic parts contain harmful substances that can endanger environment and people. When purchasing a new appliance, we turn in the old one at the store or take it to a recycling facility. The laws regarding recycling and disposing of electric waste are being legislated by the Ministry of Environment.



VOCABURARY

domestic appliances – domáce spotrebiče
household chore – domáce práce
consumption – spotreba
prohibitive factor – obmedzujuci činiteľ
security devices – bezpečnostné zariadenia
harmfull – škodlivý

destroyed – zničené
equipped – vybavený
curing – liečenie
blow-dryers – sušička na vlasy, fén
thrown out – vyhodенý
landfill – skládka