

# Save energy with smarter small appliance purchases

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Tuesday - 10/4/2011, 4:13am ET

[Kate Ryan](#), wtop.com

WASHINGTON - Are you getting burned by your toaster?

It turns out your small appliances cost you more than the purchase price. In some cases, much more.

John Jabara, founder of the Bethesda-based Savenia Labs, says until recently there was no way for you to know just how much your coffee maker -- or other small appliances -- was costing you in energy expenses.

The issue came up when he was shopping for a microwave recently and found two at the same price with comparable features. Jabara says he wondered what else he should look at when comparing to two models. If he were shopping for a car, for example, he'd look at miles per gallon, a good indicator of the cost to operate.

"The retailer didn't have any information, the government clearly doesn't cover this through EnergyStar, and the manufacturers didn't have any information, so I decided to start a company to solve the problem," he says. And that's how [Savenia Labs](#) was born.

Jabara says the name came from saving money and energy. Along with saving you money, Jabara wants to help the environment.

"I believe it's a win-win-win."

By paying attention to how much the energy is costing you, you tend to want to limit your energy consumption, and that helps the environment, Jabara says.

"You know, the environmental impact of these products is when they take energy from the power plant, and those power plants pump a lot of pollution into the air."

Jabara says often keeping it simple can save you big time. The more bells and whistles a product has, the more energy it may be drawing.

For example, on a coffee maker he says you might want to consider if you really need an additional clock in the kitchen. So Jabara says you may want your appliance to tackle just one job at a time. A toaster that toasts, a coffee maker that makes coffee.

If you want more information, head to Strosnider's Hardware stores in Silver Spring and Bethesda. Or, click [here](#).

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