

Cost to Operate

So, what is it going to cost to operate these timers all day long and a 15W motor for 23 seconds twice a day for an entire year?

To answer that, I plugged this demo model into my KILL-A-WATT power meter and just let it run. I was shooting for a 1000 hour test.

If you are not familiar with these meters, they are a cute little unit that you plug into an existing outlet and then plug any appliance into. The power meter measures the line voltage and frequency. It measures the amperage draw and the number of watts being used. Finally, it keeps track of the number of hours of your test and the total kilowatt hours used.

The only fly in the ointment here is that to reset these units, all you do is unplug them and then plug them back in.

Do I need to tell you what a temporary power outage does to your test data?

Fortunately, I made it a practice to write down the total hours and kilowatt hours used each day for the 36 days that this test ran before the power blinked off for a second and zeroed the meter.

The last numbers that I had written down were 885 hours and .69 kWh used.

Now, sitting down with a calculator and doing a little figuring, it looks like it will take 6.83 kWh of electricity to operate the system for a year.

Next, taking the dollar figure due from my latest electrical bill and dividing by the number of kilowatt hours used last month, I came up with a price per kilowatt hour. A dollar figure, by the way, that includes all the little add-ons and taxes. Not the silly little figure that the power company tells you that they are charging you.

That figure came out to 7.93 cents per kilowatt hour.

Doing a quick multiplication it looks like it will take 54 cents worth of electricity to operate this system for an entire year.

Let me just go on record as saying the cost is insignificant.

Owl in Hen House



Chickens are very social birds. Here they are entertaining a Great-Horned Owl late one evening. Story to follow.