

Lopomos Lesson

stereo and video devices. But don't worry. No one is asking you to give up the excellent, great value viewing on Alameda

Lopomos are:

- (a) A type of bedroom slipper
- (b) Tasty Filipino appetizers
- (c) A type of pasta
- (d) South American cowboys
- (e) None of the above.

If you answered "e," you're on the right track. You may not know exactly what lopomos are, but you encounter them in your home around the clock. In fact, you're paying for them right now.

"Lopomos" is an acronym for "low-power modes." Equipment in low-power mode draws electricity when plugged in, even when switched to the "off" position. Lopomo energy is used to maintain digital clocks on microwave ovens and VCRs, save television channels in memory, and keep cell phones and rechargeable tools powered up for when you need them.

This type of energy draw, also called "standby power" or "sleep mode," is responsible for as much as 20 percent of the total power used by some household appliances. Lopomos account for an estimated 10 percent of the electricity used in California homes, at an average of 50 watts per household. Across the nation, standby power losses add up to hundreds of kilowatt-hours, costing consumers billions of dollars annually.

Home entertainment equipment – televisions, VCRs, DVD players, and audio units, – comprise over half the lopomo use. Some experts believe this power use will only grow since many of today's homes have several televisions and associated

Power & Telecom cable television.

There is a simple, painless way to cut lopomo energy use and lower electricity bills.

The next time you purchase a television, VCR, DVD player, or stereo, look for the ENERGY STAR® label. ENERGY STAR® qualified televisions use about 25 percent less energy overall and can save up to 75 percent of lopomo losses. Other ENERGY STAR® approved items draw 1 watt of electricity or even less while in low-power mode.



To find ENERGY STAR® qualified home entertainment equipment, go to www.energystar.gov, click on "products" then "home electronics." The Web site provides information about specific products with low energy use. ENERGY STAR® products meet rigorous energy-efficiency requirements set by the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy. Alameda Power & Telecom is proud to be an ENERGY STAR® partner.

To save other lopomo losses, check your home for wall packs that power and recharge answering machines, cordless

phones, cell phones, and appliances such as handheld vacuum cleaners, electric toothbrushes, and cordless screwdrivers. Feel the heat coming from one wall pack, multiply it by the number of rechargeable appliances plugged in around your house, and you can understand how much energy is drawn day in and day out to keep these appliances ready for action. Consider unplugging rechargeable items that you don't use regularly and unplugging cell phone chargers when not in use. For more information on lopomos and reducing household energy use, call 748-3900 or visit www.alamedapt.com.



CLIP and KEEP!

Important Alameda Power & Telecom contact numbers:

Electricity Services.....	748-3900
Cable Services	748-3930
General Information	748-3901
After Hours/Emergency	748-3902
Watt Line	814-5678
TDD (hearing impaired).....	522-7538
E-mail.....	info@alamedapt.com
Internet	www.alamedapt.com

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For more information on the Parade, please contact Kendra Williams of the Parade Committee on 633-9550 or kendra@pkconsultants.com. For information on the RACE, please visit www.alamedarace.com.