What is vampire power, phantom loads, idling standby current, and wall warts? They all basically refer to the same thing: electronic devices with two sharp, pointy teeth that latch into your wall sockets and suck blood...err...electricity all day, all night, whether on or “off,” whether charging batteries or not. These devices include TV’s, VCR’s, DVD players, iPods, cell phones, stereos, laptops, desktops, anything with a remote, anything with a charger, anything with a clock display.

They Are Everywhere! Lurking!

You can tell that they are sucking energy by the little red, orange or blue glow near the power button.

Top Five Ways You Can Fight the Vampires:

1. Turn off the monitor instead of letting it set in sleep mode.
2. Remove chargers from the wall when you’re not charging.
3. For various computer accessories at home, try a smart strip.
4. Unplug your devices. It’s as simple as that!
5. If you’re in the market for new electronics, buy Energy Star qualified.