

POWER REQUIREMENTS

Standard household power capacity in Italy is 3.3 KW (3,300 Watts) and sufficient enough to run all of your appliances. High amp appliances like ovens and dryers may not be able to be used at the same time as it will exceed the 3.3 KW limit and the main breaker will “trip” off. Power can be increased up to a 6.6 KW max which will allow use of multiple appliances; however, this may require upgrade of main breaker to hold the higher load. Ask Home Fuels for costs associated with power increase.

Average Power Requirement: The following table shows average estimated wattage requirements for common household items:

Large Appliances		Small Appliances		Kitchen Appliances	
Oven	2,500w	Hair Dryer	1,500w	Deep Fat Fryer	1,800w
Wall Air Conditioner	1,500w	Iron	1,800w	Microwave Oven	1,500w
Dishwasher	1,200w	Vacuum Cleaner	550w	Coffee Maker	1,200w
Clothes Dryer (European)	1,500w	Computers	250w	Toaster	1,100w
Refrigerator-Freezer	500w	Television (LED/LCD)	200w	Espresso Machine	800w
Washing Machine	2,100w	Fan (Portable)	120w	Food Blender	600w
		Fan (Ceiling)	100w	Slow Cooker	200w
		Video Games	100w	Food Mixer	300w
		Sewing Machine	75w		
		Cable/Satellite Box	25w		

ELECTRIC RATES

The electric companies charge different rates for different timeframes. The following table provides you the most to least expensive rates throughout any given day:

Most Expensive: A1		Mid-Rate: A2		Lowest Rate: A3	
Monday – Friday	8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Monday - Friday	7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.	Monday - Saturday	11:00 pm to 7:00 am
		Monday – Friday	7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.	Sunday	All Day
		Saturday	7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.	Italian Holidays	All Day

TRANSFORMERS

Transformers increase energy usage. Try to use the right sized transformer for the job. Energy consumption of equipment is typically listed on the device. Turn off transformers when not in use. It will draw electricity even if the appliance is disconnected. If transformer is not working, try to “reset”. If resetting does not work, take the transformer to the FMS warehouse to exchange for working transformer.

ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

Use proper Italian outlets where possible, it is much safer than using adapters for 220/240V appliances fitted with US style 2 pin plugs. These US adapters, commonly called “cheater plugs”, are missing the ground pin and can only support low amp devices (e.g. lamps, computers, phone chargers). Without the ground pin you run the risk of shorting out your appliance during a power outage, surge, or electrical storm.

Italian Outlets: homes are equipped with two different size outlets:

- Smaller outlets are 10 Amps; intended to be used for small appliances like TV/audio systems, PCs, lamps, etc.
 - These outlets support 1,500W transformers or below
- Larger outlets are 16 Amps; intended to be used for larger appliances
 - These outlets support 1,500W transformers or above
- Newer homes may have dual size outlets that support both 10 and 16 Amps without the need for an adapter
- “German” outlets are 16 Amps that support larger appliances

NOTE: Check appliances amperage and connect it to the correct outlet to prevent overloads that could cause smoldering and fire.



10 Amp



16 Amp



10/16 Amps



16 Amp “German” Outlet

EXTENSION CORDS

If you use an extension cord, ensure it meets European Community (CE) standards and is rated for the intended appliance. Avoid running extension cords under rugs, through doorways, windows and walls.

ADAPTERS

Avoid using multiple adapters as they lead to overloading the circuit. Also, avoid using the commonly called “cheater plugs” as they do not have a ground pin. There are a multitude of adapters available at any local hardware store to meet your requirement.



“German” Adapter



Adapter

AMERICAN SURGE PROTECTORS

Use of American surge protectors may cause a ground fault interrupter (GFI) to trip apparently for no reason. It is due to power fluctuations (spikes) that are very common in the area and are due to factories turning on/off machinery and public illumination. Although power spikes are sufficient to trip surge protectors, it is not harmful to your electronic devices. Suggest you purchase surge protectors from local electronics stores to avoid the annoying problem of tripping the house GFI and to protect your goods.

POWER PROBLEMS

In case of power loss due to system overloading or thunderstorms, check the interior breaker panel and/or the electricity meter. If breaker does not reset, unplug all electrical devices/appliances and then reset. Once power is restored, plug in devices/appliances one at a time, in order to identify the faulty item. The meter is usually located on the property perimeter wall for single homes or row houses, and in common stairwell areas for apartment buildings. In older homes the meter may be located inside, either behind the front door or in the garage.



GFI



BREAKER



ELECTRICITY METER