

Lower Your Utility Bill This Winter

Everyone wants to save money, and with a global energy crisis and a movement towards going green, there is no better place to start than with your winter heating bills. Not only are you helping save money in the long run, but you're also helping to save the planet too!

The price of all types of energy and fuel is on the rise, so you may be wondering how you can lower your utility bill this winter. It's a lot simpler than you might think!

10 Quick & Easy Ways to Lower Utility Bills

1. Turn your thermostat down.

This is the best place to start when it comes to lowering your heat bill. Some estimates say you can save as much as 10% by lowering your thermostat by five to ten degrees. If you are away from home or asleep, try turning it down to 68°. You can even experiment and see if your family is comfortable a few degrees lower than you usually keep your home.

2. Upgrade your thermostat.

Thermostats have come a long way! You can get a programmable or even a smart thermostat. The best smart thermostats will allow you to customize your heat schedule and even allow you to control your thermostat from your smartphone or device while you are away from home.

3. Don't block your vents.

Make sure your vents are clear for optimal circulation. This will keep your home warmer while using less energy. Preventive maintenance is advised in general to help keep your overall costs down.

4. Check your filters.

To keep your HVAC running it's best, you need to make sure you clean or change your filters every few months. Keeping regularly scheduled maintenance appointments with service professionals will also help. An HVAC system not in proper running order can drastically increase your energy bill.

5. Seal your windows and doors.

Check and replace any broken or old seals on your windows and doors. Old and broken seals will allow for drafts that will make it much harder to keep your home warm and cozy in the winter.

6. Wash full loads of laundry.

Doing laundry increases your bills in multiple ways because the machines take both electricity and water to run, and then in some cases, the water must be heated first. Make the most out of each load by washing full loads, and wash in cold water when you can. You can also save money by hanging drying your clothes when possible.

7. Check your water heater.

Your water heater should be set no higher than 120°F. Having a water heater set too high not only wastes energy, but it is also dangerous. You not only risk burns, but potentially damaging your water heater or pipes in the process.

8. Unplug electronics when not in use.

Stand-by power can cost you over \$100 per year! You may not think about it, but even simple appliances such as coffee makers and toasters draw power even when they're not in use. A good rule of thumb is if you're not using it, unplug it.

9. Close your garage door.

Keeping your garage door closed will keep the garage wall side of your home warmer by helping to retain warm air and insulate it from the cold. Consider weather treating any draft points if possible for additional insulation and energy savings.

10. Use rugs.

Rugs will help to insulate your floor and also keep bare feet from feeling cold. You may also want to consider wearing additional layers during colder months to help keep heating costs down.

Conclusion

There are many easy ways to have a lower utility bill. Most of them come down to being mindful and creating good energy habits. Just adding a few of these tips into your routine will cut costs while still keeping you warm and cozy all winter long!