



Have questions about your electric bill?

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- The first 7 days in January are among the coldest starts in January going back to 1980.
- From Dec. 9 - Jan. 18, there were only 9 days where the nighttime temperatures were above freezing.
- During the same time period, there were 18 days that the temperature did not go above freezing either day or night.

The temperature difference It hasn't been that cold:

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- between the inside of your home and the air temperature outside is greater during the winter than in the summer.
- The greater the temperature difference, the harder your heating system has to work to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature.
- For example, if you want your house to be 70 degrees inside and it's 20 degrees outside, your HVAC system has to make up 50 degrees difference in temperature.
- When temps drop below freezing, most heating systems go into "auxiliary" or "emergency" heat mode, which uses 3 to 4 times more electricity. You may or may not know when this happens.

I HAVE lowered my thermostat:

- Even with lowered t-stat settings and other energy-saving measures, people need to be aware the increased work put on heating systems during extremely cold weather will still require more electricity.



Have questions about your electric bill? *(continued)*

I don't use electric heat but my usage still went up:

- Even if you use gas to heat your home, your electric usage will still jump. That's because your gas furnace relies on an electricity-powered blower to move hot air through your ductwork.
- When temps drop, the blower will operate longer and harder to help maintain the temp in your home.

I use wood to heat:

- Even if you supplement your home's main heating system with a wood or a pellet-burning stove, keep in mind those heat sources may also indirectly impact your usage. These units still require venting and blower fans to exhaust fumes and smoke from the home.
- Fires in fireplaces can create a draft through any unsealed/leaky area in the home. The draft pulls the cold air through the house towards the fire. If you have a thermostat, even set at a lower temperature, the cold air can cause your central unit to run MORE than it would if there were no fire.

I only use a small space heater occasionally:

- These type heaters use between 1,000 – 1,500 watts per hour.

Miscellaneous:

- People spend more time at home during cold weather, especially on days school is cancelled. That means:

- o The refrigerator door is opened more
- o TVs and gaming systems run more
- o More meals are prepared at home utilizing a stove or oven
- o People tend to take longer, warmer showers in cold weather, causing the water heater to run more.

