SAVING MONEY ON YOUR UTILITY BILLS

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www.georgiawatch.org
How much energy do we use?

- **Space Heating, 30%**
- **Appliances, Electronics & Lighting, 40%**
- **Water Heating, 19%**
- **Air Conditioning, 11%**

Source: www.eia.gov
SIGN UP FOR WEATHERIZATION

- Own your own home?
- Are you experiencing extremely high utility bills?
- Need professional assistance weatherizing?
- If your income level qualifies you for LIHEAP, you may be eligible for a full weatherization program for your home.

ASK YOUR FACAA REPRESENTATIVE FOR MORE DETAILS

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Always turn off the lights when you leave the room.

- Your lighting is responsible for about 15% of a home's electricity use. That means turning off the lights can definitely reduce your home's energy use—and your family's energy bill!
Unplug electronics that aren’t in use.

- The average home contains 40 **idle products** constantly drawing power and together these devices may account for as much as **10%** of household energy use.

[Image of an electronic plug]
Use power strips.

- If you don't feel like unplugging six different electronic items every time you're not using your TV and computer, simply plug them all into a single surge protector and turn the device off.
Use compact florescent bulbs.

- Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 75% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last 10 times longer.
Make sure nothing is blocking the air ducts and heating vents.

- Do not put furniture in front of your air vents.
- Blocked air vents make it more difficult for your HVAC (heating, ventilation and cooling) system to maintain a comfortable temperature, which can lead to higher heating bills.

**PRO TIP:** Un-screw vent caps and clean them out thoroughly, removing dust and dirt to help air flow easily.
Know your billing plan.

- Know which plans are going to be the most affordable for your home.
- Natural gas providers have different types of plans:
  - Balanced Billing
  - Variable Rate
  - Fixed-rate

PRO TIP: Check out the Public Service Commission website to compare rates before signing up for a plan: [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us) or call toll free at 1-800-282-5813
Plug up the cracks with caulk.

- Use caulk to plug-up cracks around door frames, windows, floors and the base boards.
- Make sure that no air is passing through; that escaped air can increase your heating and cooling bills.

PRO TIP: Use caulk inside and out to make sure all cracks have been filled and no air can escape.

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Weatherize your windows.

- By applying plastic film to windows, you create a barrier keeping heat inside and cold air outside.
- You can buy these kits at the hardware store for $1-$3 per window.

PRO TIP: Tape bubble wrap to the window in between the window and the plastic barrier to keep more warm air inside your home.
Turn down the temperature on your water heater.

- Most water heaters are automatically set to 140 degrees F, which is hotter than you will likely ever need.
- Turn the temperature 20 degrees (or more) and save your water heater some work and yourself 10% on heating costs.

**PRO TIP:** Invest in a water temperature gauge.

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Insulate your pipes.

- Heat escapes when pipes are not insulated, making your hot water heater work harder.
- If you add simple foam insulation, you keep that heat from escaping, thereby saving you money.
- You can purchase inexpensive foam insulation at any hardware store.

www.georgiawatch.org
Insulate your switch-plate covers.

- Your sockets and light switches are essentially holes in the wall that allow air to flow through.
- You can prevent air from escaping through these openings by placing a thin foam insulator in between the cover and the socket opening.
- They are available at your local hardware store.
Program your thermostat.

- Set your thermostat to 68 degrees in the winter and 78 in the summer.
- When you go to bed, you can lower it to 65 in the winter or raise to 80 in the summer.
- A few degrees can go a long way in reducing your bills!
Use a door sweep in your door frame.

- A door sweep will prevent air from escaping beneath the door.
- You can also roll up a towel and place that in front of the door to prevent airflow.
Seal off rooms that are not in use.

- Close the door or seal off rooms that you are not using.
- If there is no door, you can use sheet plastic or a blanket to close off the opening to the room.
NEED FURTHER ASSISTANCE PAYING FOR UTILITY BILLS?

- Call United Way at 211 to see what financial assistance programs are available in your area.

For more consumer tips visit: www.georgiawatch.org
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Your power/gas cannot be cut off if:

- You have a note from a doctor saying your health could be affected in a negative way by not having heat/cooling.
- There is a weather advisory for excessively hot weather.
- There is a weather advisory for temperatures below 32 degrees (F).

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ARE YOU 65 OR OLDER?

- Seniors who are at least 65 years of age with a total household income of $14,355 or less are eligible for a discount of up to $14.00 off the monthly Atlanta Gas Light Company’s base charge.

- Seniors also get a $6.00 fuel credit per month from Georgia Power.

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