

10 EASY STEPS TO SAVE MONEY ON YOUR UTILITY BILLS



Always unplug electronics when they are not in use, or use powerstrips.



Use a window weatherization kit to seal your windows during cold months.



Turn your water heater down to about 120 degrees F.



Use LED bulbs instead of traditional or CFL bulbs.



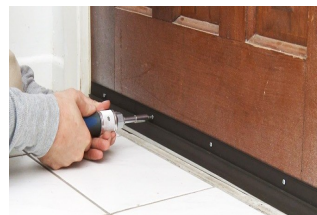
Put foam insulators between your sockets and the walls.



Close doors to rooms you are not using or seal them off with sheet plastic.



Do not block your air vents with furniture or other objects.



Put a door sweep under doors that lead to outside to prevent air from flowing out.



Set your thermostat at 68° in the winter and 78° in the summer to keep your bills low.



Use caulk to seal up windows inside and out; preventing air from flowing in/out.



DEALING WITH HIGH UTILITY BILLS

LOW-INCOME HEAT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP is a financial assistance program to help low-income families pay their heating bills. The program typically opens in late November/early December and runs until there are no more funds left. To find the Community Action Agency that serves your county, call 211.

Project SHARE is also a statewide program and is administered by The Salvation Army. For more information call 1-800-25-SHARE. They provide up to \$400 for emergency assistance.

SIGN UP FOR WEATHERIZATION

The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (www.gefa.org) distributes funds for weatherization assistance through Community Action Agencies for the repair or renovation of homes of low-income residents to make them more energy efficient.

For more information call 211 or contact your local Community Action Agency.

DISPUTING A BILL

Here are some helpful tips for resolving a dispute with your power or gas provider.

- Select an opportune time to call. Avoid Mondays and the days following holidays
- Have a pen and paper ready so you can take notes during the call
- Have copies of your current bill, past bills and canceled checks
- Know your account number and passwords
- Decide how much you are seeking to reduce your bill – be realistic with your expectations
- Write down the date and time you talked with the person
- Ask for the person's name, identification number and extension before you begin to discuss the bill
- Ask if there's a case number, and jot it down
- Be firm but pleasant; ask to speak with a manager if disagreements persist
- Ask what the expected turnaround will be for the resolution
- Write down any price quotes and/or charge adjustments; ask the customer representative to do the same in the company's computer database