

WHAT IF I CAN'T PAY MY BILL?

If faced with a bill you can't pay in full,
DO NOT IGNORE IT:



- Contact your utility company.
- Apply for energy assistance.
- Enter into a payment agreement with the utility company.

- Consider enrolling in an average or budget-billing plan which allows customers to spread annual energy costs over a 12-month period. Budget billing amounts may be adjusted at various times during the 12-month period.



www.beenergyefficient.org



“Be Energy Efficient” is an initiative of the Missouri Public Service Commission and the

Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

This initiative is aimed at helping consumers remain in control of their energy bills.

BEE is a collaborative effort supported by many organizations and utilities servicing the state of Missouri.

Be Energy Efficient
1-800-392-4211

www.beenergyefficient.org



**Missouri Public
Service Commission**
1-800-392-4211



**MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

Energy Center
1-800-361-4827

Home Energy Savings Tips





NO-COST ENERGY SAVINGS ACTIONS

- Make sure vents are not blocked by furniture or drapes.
- Close off rooms that are not in use.
- Turn thermostat down when not at home.
- Turn off lights not being used.
- Turn down the temperature on the water heater to 120 degrees.
- Let sunlight into your home during the winter and keep it out in the summer.
- Wear extra layers of clothing or blankets in the winter.
- Keep refrigerator base clean, take guard off and clean dirt and debris from underneath refrigerator.
- Clear area in freezer around freezer fan.
- Use cold water when washing clothes.
- Check your meter weekly to monitor consumption and plan for billing amount.
- Consider setting the thermostat to a lower temperature in winter and higher in the summer. **Important: Seniors and people with special medical needs should check with their doctors before changing their normal home temperatures or considering turning off air conditioning or heating units.**



LOW-COST ENERGY SAVINGS ACTIONS

- Replace furnace filter monthly when dirty.
- Caulk around windows and doors.
- Replace conventional light bulbs with efficient light bulbs.
- Install an energy efficient thermostat.
- Replace shower head with a low-flow shower head.
- Install switch and outlet gaskets/foam inserts on outer walls.
- Install plastic on windows.
- Place foam pipe wrap around warm water pipes (*Keep wrap 12 inches away from heater top*).
- Install heater jackets for water heater (*Do not install if heater has foam insulation*).
- Insulate heating ducts that travel through unheated areas of your home.
- Seal up areas around plumbing penetrations on outer walls.
- Have your furnace and air-conditioner inspected and tuned up before heating and cooling seasons.
- Fill gaps around the chimney.



LONG-TERM ENERGY SAVINGS ACTIONS

- Add insulation in attic and have cellulose blown into walls that are not insulated (*Consult a licensed electrician if wiring does not meet current standards*).
- Replace old appliances with ENERGY STAR® appliances.
- Install ENERGY STAR windows and doors.
- Install high efficiency furnace or heat pump and high efficiency air conditioner.
- Install more cold air returns if house needs increased air circulation to increase furnace efficiency.
- Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, sponsored by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Energy Center, offers a comprehensive approach to home improvement, remodeling, and renovation. The program is available in the St. Louis, Kansas City and Columbia areas. www.missourihomeperformance.org



TOP WAYS HEAT ESCAPES A HOME

A home energy audit will pinpoint areas where air could escape.



According to the U.S. Department of Energy, about 31% of heat escapes through openings in your ceilings, walls, and floors. Heat can also escape from plumbing penetrations, fireplaces, doors, windows and ducts.