

What's up with my bill?

December and January were the coldest months on record in Florida for some time. This extreme weather resulted in increased natural gas consumption to provide heat, plus energy for other uses in homes and businesses.

As a result of the cold weather, there's a good chance your gas bill is higher than normal this month. Whether or not this is the case, the following information can help you.

Simple changes in your household or business routines could help you save money on your heating bills. In fact, you can cut annual heating bills by as much as 10 percent per year by turning your thermostat back 10 percent to 15 percent for eight hours per day. *(Source: American Gas Association)*

Peoples Gas suggests the following energy-saving measures during colder weather:

- Set your thermostat between 65 to 68 degrees when you are at home or in the office and at 55 degrees when you're away for more than a few hours. Check for and seal leaks around doors, windows or other openings where drafts can occur. Close vents in areas that get little use, and direct the vents downward or across the floor in areas that are used a lot.
- On sunny days, open window dressings to let in the sun's warmth. At night, close them to keep the heat inside. Make sure that furnace filters are changed or cleaned once a month, so they can breathe easier. Run clothes dryers and other gas-related equipment on a full load.

Find more conservation measures and information from the American Gas Association (aga.org) and the Energy Information Administration (eia.doe.gov). You also can upgrade to more energy-efficient appliances by using energy conservation programs from TECO Peoples Gas (peoplesgas.com).



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