

Cold Weather = High Bills

Did You Know?

Winter electric bills can be **2-3 times higher** than Fall or Spring bills.

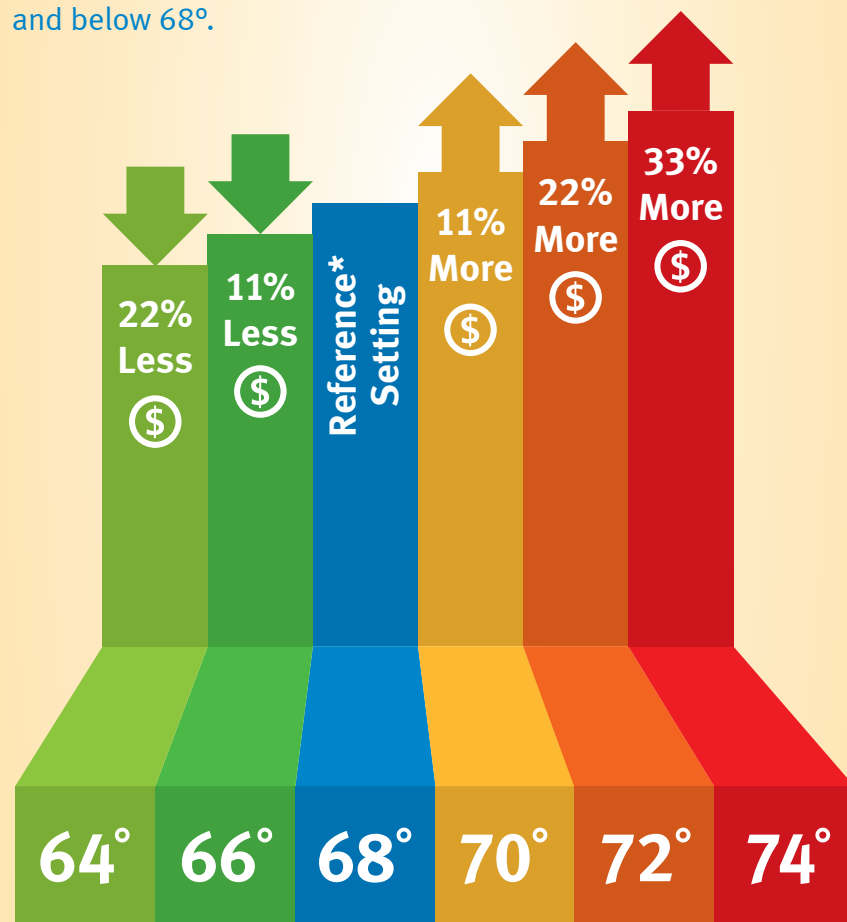


Power in Your Hands

You can't control the weather but you can control your thermostat. Lowering your thermostat is the easiest and most effective way to lower most electric bills. Every degree makes a difference. The chart below illustrates the cost of keeping your home above and below 68°.

Heating Costs Above & Below

68°



Heating Accounts for 52% of Your Utility Bill



IT'S LIKE TRYING TO HEAT YOUR HOME WITH A HAIRDRYER:

When the outdoor temperatures drop below 40°, a properly-sized heat pump activates electric heat strips to provide enough heat for your home. They resemble and function like the coils inside of a hair dryer and run constantly. The heat strips, however, will consume about three times as much energy as a heat pump to maintain the inside temperature.

Warm Up With Ways to Save

Energy-saving tips:

- 1 Heat your home at 68° or cooler with the thermostat fan switch on "auto."
- 2 To save even more, lower your thermostat to 65° or cooler at bedtime or when you're away from home.
- 3 Install a programmable thermostat to adjust the temperature automatically and maximize your energy savings.



Thermostat



Other ways to keep warm:

- 1 Using a space heater to heat a room is cheaper than heating the whole house. But remember to keep it at least 3 feet away from flammable items.
- 2 Put an electric blanket on your bed to keep you warm while you sleep. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and make sure you turn it off and unplug it when it's not in use.
- 3 Bundle up! Put on a sweater and socks to stay warm instead of turning up the heat.

OUC Can Help

OUC's Budget Billing helps customers avoid unpredictable bills by evening out payments over the year. This free service lets customers plan their monthly payments and keep their budgets balanced.

How it works:

Your monthly fixed Budget Bill amount is based on the average of your actual utility bills during the last 12 months, including electric and/or water, solid waste, waste water and taxes.* An additional percentage, at the discretion of OUC, will be added to the amount to prevent the deferred balance from growing too large.

To learn more, visit www.ouc.com

Log in to myOUC and visit the Budget & Billing section to enroll.



*Note: If you do not have 12 months of consumption history at your location, the calculation will be based on the history available for a minimum six-month period. Additional charges, adjustments and financed installments are not part of the Budget Billing plan and appear as separate line items on your bill. These charges are in addition to the Budget Billing amount.

OUC's Usage Dashboard helps customers track consumption any time, anywhere and from any device.

How it works:

The Usage Dashboard is a presentation of your consumption trends to help you better understand the days and times you use the most. This will help you better understand your usage patterns and therefore reduce your bill. To view the Usage Dashboard, simply log into your myOUC Online Profile and click the blue View Usage button in your Account Summary. Be sure to allow pop-ups, as the dashboard will open in a new window.

To learn more, visit www.ouc.com/usage



The Reliable One®

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