



# Abnormally high electric bill

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Instead of wondering and worrying about why your electric bill is so high, take action to determine the causes. Aging appliances, overdue maintenance on appliances and windows or doors, and...

Luckily, you can take steps to find the source of high electricity bills and resolve them to minimize the impact on your wallet. Here are some ideas to start the troubleshooting process, along with some suggestions on what to do about your high electric bill.

You can quite often link an abnormally high electricity bill to unusually high electricity usage. Keep reading to understand five reasons why your electricity usage might be unusually high. #1 - Lack Of Energy-Efficient Lighting

When you get a higher-than-expected bill from your power company, you'll want to explore the potential reasons and take action to prevent another abnormally high electric bill. This guide will help you understand a high energy bill and offer tips to bring it down.

Many factors can cause high electric bills. These include the type and size of your home, your climate, your habits, and the cost of power. The average cost of electricity in the U.S. for residential customers is now \$.16 per kilowatt hour, up from \$.14 per kilowatt hour in 2022. Here are several factors behind higher electric bills and what you can do to lower yours.

Your air conditioner works harder on hot days and your heater must step up in the winter. You'll consume more electricity if it powers both heating and air conditioning. Otherwise, you might be asking: Why is my natural gas bill high? If you are wondering "why my electric bill tripled in one month," don't simply compare it with last month. Compare it with your bill from the same time a year ago. You might see you don't have an abnormally high electric bill after all. It could be a seasonal trend.

Despite rapid de-carbonization of the power grid, a large portion of power generation still uses fuel from gas, coal and oil. When it is extremely cold, you need more heat. And so does everyone else. When demand is pushed higher, fuel prices go up and thus so do electricity costs.

World events, such as the pandemic, war in Ukraine, activities by OPEC and natural disasters like storms and forest fires affect demand, availability, and price. Changes in regulations and laws on drilling and pipelines also affect fuel prices and the cost of electricity. You can explore how electricity pricing works to learn more about drivers of electricity costs.

You may not notice that your home's insulation is insufficient when temperatures are mild. In extreme cold, you may feel air leaks from windows and doors. When it is extremely hot, bad insulation makes it harder to

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keep cool. A home energy audit may answer your question about why your electric bill is so high.

Indeed, poor insulation is a common factor in what causes high electric bills. An audit can help you when it comes to finding air leaks in your home. You could put an end to energy waste and potentially cut your bill by beefing up your insulation. A simple thing, like how to weatherstrip a door, can make a big difference.

Even if they're not the newest models, your air conditioner and heater will be more efficient with clean filters and motors that are running smoothly. If you have a clogged filter or worn parts, your system will have to work harder to achieve the same level of heat or cooling, consuming more electricity, leading to an abnormally high electric bill. Following HVAC lifespan tips also keep your systems running longer.

Seasonal demand changes are only part of the story. Demand can change throughout a day. At night, when most businesses are closed and people are asleep, demand may be lower. During the hottest summer days, demand in the late afternoon could be exceedingly high.

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