

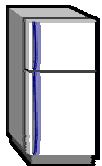


HIGH BILLS????

For many, the first inclination is to suspect meter error. Our experience has shown that meters never speed up and make bills higher. They do occasionally slow down giving a lower billing! When we find them, we replace them with meters that give accurate readings. Here are some suggestions that might help you to understand why last month's bill seemed higher than normal

Was your billing period for more than 30 days? Looking at the per-day cost and comparing it with the prior month or year can help you to see if this is truly unusual usage.

Has anything changed in your house? Did you have any guests staying with you? More people in the house equals higher electrical consumption as more lights are on, more showers are taken and more loads of clothes are washed.



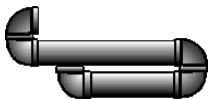
Did you buy a new appliance (computers, hair dryers)? How are the old ones running? Old refrigerators and freezers with ice or frost built up in them are not energy efficient.



Does it seem like you are running out of hot water more quickly than normal? Are any hot-water faucets leaking? Is your water extremely hot? Check your hot-water heater settings. 120° to 130° should be sufficient for most homes. Occasionally a heating element will wear out causing power to flow to ground. It is recommended to flush out the water tank yearly to remove any accumulated sludge. (Remember to turn off the breaker first!)



Holidays are a time for higher than normal electric bills. Decorating your house with Christmas lights will increase the amount of power being used. Holiday cooking also raises your bill.



Are you heating your garage all year long? How about the heat tapes on the pipes under the house? It's easy to forget to turn these things off during the warmer months.



Make sure the meter reading used for billing is correct. You can read your own meter and compare it with the reading shown on your bill. It's rare, but mistakes do happen.



Still puzzled about your high bill? Give us a call at the meter shop 225-5505. It's possible that your bill was too good to be true last month because we under-read your meter. That would certainly make this month's bill appear too high.