

## If it is NOT unplugged....it is using ELECTRICITY!



### Seasonal Items

Appliances and other equipment used at different times of year (air conditioners, dehumidifiers, hot air furnaces, space or radiant heaters, a diesel vehicle plugged in, an outdoor pond or water fall, etc.) can make a significant difference in your electricity usage. And even if these items run on gas or oil, chances are that electricity is still used for circulation.



### A Full House

Times of higher occupancy and activity, like holidays and school vacations, can cause your energy usage to be higher than normal. House guests, including kids home from college, can use a lot more electricity - more showers, laundry, cooking and dishes - all of which use hot water. In addition, the size, age and type of house you live in can impact the amount of electricity you use.



### Faulty Appliances

A leaky water heater, a faulty water bed heater, a dirty furnace filter or other filters, a pool pump that's running constantly, a faulty thermostat, a refrigerator or freezer with a poor door seal - all of these appliance defects can lead to a surprisingly high electricity bill. Many electronic devices continue to draw power even when they're not in use. Consider unplugging these items when not in use, or use a power strip with a convenient on/off switch.



### That Forgotten Item

Did you use an electric leaf blower, do more computer work and printing than normal, buy a larger refrigerator add a freezer to the household or a large-screen TV or maybe even two? Any of these things could cause an increase in your electricity bill.



### For a more predictable bill

Sign up for [Average Monthly Billing](#) in January of each year. Average Monthly Billing is a budgeting tool which helps smooth out seasonal highs and lows in monthly bills so you have more predictable monthly payments. Talk to Utility Billing about this feature.

Conditions Beyond Your Control	Changes in Normal Living Conditions	Appliances
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seasons of the year- Variations in daylight</li> <li>• Weather extremes</li> <li>• Daylight saving time</li> <li>• Five-weekend months</li> <li>• Number of days in billing cycle</li> <li>• Number of days between meter readings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size of family</li> <li>• Visiting relatives and guests</li> <li>• New babies</li> <li>• Change in living habits</li> <li>• Holidays and vacations</li> <li>• Repairs or remodeling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addition of new appliance</li> <li>• Use of old or defective appliances</li> <li>• Frost on refrigerator unit</li> <li>• Shortage of refrigerant</li> <li>• Inefficient use</li> <li>• Excessive use or leaks of hot water</li> <li>• Clogged air filters</li> <li>• Faulty thermostat controls (or set too high/low)</li> </ul>