



Gulf Power®



COLD weather tips from your Gulf Power team

Weather plays the biggest role in the amount of energy you use and how it impacts your power bill. Customers typically see their highest bills after the hottest and coldest months.

When the temperatures across Northwest Florida drop into the 30s and 40s, your heating system will work overtime trying to warm up your home.

Check out these 10 cold weather tips from Gulf Power's energy experts:

1. **Set your thermostat** at a constant temperature. Almost half of the energy in your home goes to heating and cooling. In the winter, set it at 68 degrees and leave it. For every degree above 68 that you set your thermostat, you'll pay 10 percent more in heating costs.
2. **Find and seal leaks** so cold air can't sneak in through doors, walls or a poorly insulated attic. Make sure there are no tiny holes in your ducts that could cause your heater to work harder. Install weather stripping or caulking around doors and windows. Increase attic insulation to save 30 percent on cooling and heating costs.
3. **Reverse the setting on your ceiling fan** to push warmer air down to the floor level.
4. **Maintain your heating system** so it runs more efficiently. Change or clean your air filter monthly since dirty filters restrict airflow and reduce efficiency. Check out available incentives from Gulf Power's Heating and Cooling page: www.gulfpower.com/save/programs/heating-and-cooling.html
5. **Lower your lighting costs** by turning off lights that aren't in use. Use fluorescent lighting or LEDs; they last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, and they consume as little as 20 percent of the energy for the same amount of light.
6. **Use an electric blanket** or heated mattress cover; these are more economical than heating the entire house. To prevent a fire hazard, avoid using ones that are older than 10 years, and don't run cords under your mattress.
7. **Use the sun to heat your home** by opening draperies and blinds on the sunny side of your house. Close them on the shaded side of your house and at night.
8. **Get a free Energy Checkup**, one of the easiest ways you can identify measures to conserve energy. You can access a free online checkup from anywhere at any time on a laptop, tablet or mobile device. The checkup provides a report that's personalized for you, based on your home's actual energy use and can be accessed whenever you want to look for ways to save money and energy. Learn more here: www.gulfpower.com/save/programs/energy-checkup.html
9. **Use portable electric heaters.** Newer model portable space heaters - when used properly - can help customers maintain a comfortable environment in their homes. However, they can significantly raise your bill. Use portable electric heaters only when in the room and only in small areas. They should not be used in conjunction with central heat as the impacts to your electric bill can be significant. Look for newer models that are thermostatically controlled and carry the UL label.
10. **Sign up for Budget Billing** today and remove the fluctuations during cold weather months. It gives you more predictable electric bills by evening out your energy costs. Learn more here: www.gulfpower.com/business/bill-budget-billing.html

There are many other things you can do to keep your home more comfortable in the winter. Check out more energy-savings tips here: www.gulfpower.com/save/lower-bill/tips.html

GulfPower.com/save/lower-bill/tips