

Getting Help With Your Heating Bills

If you're on a low or fixed income and are having difficulty paying your fuel bills, there are programs that can help.

The Pennsylvania Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is an energy-assistance program administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. Both homeowners and renters may be eligible for this program, and it doesn't matter how you heat your residence. To apply for LIHEAP assistance, contact the county assistance office listed in the blue pages of your phone book. You can obtain additional information on this and other programs at www.compass.state.pa.us.

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development provides free weatherization services through local assistance offices and agencies. You must meet certain income requirements to qualify. For more information about this program, you can contact the Department at 717-787-1984. You can also inquire with your utility company or the Community Action Agency listed in your phone book's blue pages.

In addition, a number of utilities offer their own energy-assistance programs. Check with your utility company to find out what programs are offered and whether you qualify. Also, call your utility company for more tips on saving energy.



Office of Attorney General
Bureau of Consumer Protection
15th Floor, Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

**CONSUMER
PROTECTION HOTLINE**
1-800-441-2555
TDD # 1-800-382-4814

www.attorneygeneral.gov

P E N N S Y L V A N I A

**ATTORNEY GENERAL
TOM CORBETT**

**CUTTING
HOME
HEATING
COSTS**





Dear Fellow Pennsylvanians:

Fuel to heat your home in winter is a necessity, not a luxury. Whether you heat with oil, gas, electricity, coal or wood, the bills can

take a big chunk of your yearly household budget.

The Bureau of Consumer Protection offers steps you can take to reduce your utility bills. So, while you're saving money, you'll also be conserving precious natural resources.

It is my hope that you will find these tips for cutting your heating costs helpful.

Tom Corbett
TOM CORBETT
Attorney General



Shop for your fuel.

As you do with any major purchase, shop around for the best buy. Oil prices, for example, may vary as much as 10 to 15 cents per gallon among competitors in a local market. Contact a number of different suppliers for the best price. **Do your homework on fuel oil suppliers before paying or signing anything. Ask for references and check with the Better Business Bureau.**

Avoid tying arrangements.

Don't sign a furnace service agreement that requires you to buy your fuel from the dealer that services the furnace. Such arrangements make it difficult for you to shop for the best fuel price.

Consider your budget and needs.

You may want to enter a budget plan that allows you to make payments over an extended period of time based on projected fuel prices, estimated consumption and past usage history.

Buy at the right time.

Heating oil and propane generally are less expensive in the summer months. That's when you should fill your tank. If space and environmental concerns permit, consider installing an extra fuel tank so you can buy more fuel when the prices are lower.

Maintain your heating system.

Have a professional check it each year. Change filters regularly for peak performance.

Adjust your thermostat.

Set the thermostat at 65 degrees during the day and at 55 degrees while you sleep or when you're away from home for several days.

Don't heat unused space.

Close off rooms and the heating supply to rooms that are not used often.

Use natural heating.

Open shades and curtains on the south side of your home to let in the warmth of the sun. Close them at night or on cloudy days.

Insulate your water heater.

For additional energy savings have the hot water pipes from your heater insulated.

Limit your shower time.

Taking a shower instead of a bath can save hot water, but only if you limit your time in the shower to five minutes or less.

Fix leaky hot water faucets.

If the faucet leaks 60 drops per minute, you waste 192 gallons of hot water each month.

Install storm doors and windows.

These will pay for themselves in just a few heating seasons by creating an insulated air space.

Keep the heat in.

Make sure you have adequate insulation throughout the house. Inexpensive materials can seal cracks and holes where air can leak through walls and ceilings, at basement foundations, around windows and doors and at attic entry ways.

Remember your rights.

Keep in mind that you have three business days to cancel any agreement made from your home, either in person or by telephone.

HOME HEATING