



ELECTRICITY

Getting a surprisingly large electricity bill, that you are unable to pay, can be frightening. Nearly 20% of Aussie's were unable to pay their bill on time in the last 12 months. But there are ways to think ahead, plan and save. We've put together this info sheet to help you reduce the shock!

WHAT TO EXPECT

The average Australian household spends \$50 per week on energy needs. How big your bill is will depend on factors such as: how big your home is, the number of people living there, what appliances you use and how you cool or heat your home.

HOW YOU CAN SAVE

- Turn it off! Don't leave your lights, heaters, air conditioning, TV's or other electrical items running when not in use. Switch off your chargers and electronic devices off at the wall.
- Reduce your hot water. Wash your clothes in cold water (at off-peak times). Only run full loads and take shorter showers.
- Change your lighting. Switch to lamps, use energy efficient light bulbs and open the blinds to make use of natural light. Turn off the lights in all rooms you aren't using and don't leave porch lights running.
- Minimise your cooling and heating expenses by closing doors to regulate room temperatures and dressing for the seasons. Close your blinds during the day in summer and open in winter. Make sure windows/vents are closed (to heat). Set your air-conditioner no higher than 20°C in winter and no lower than 25°C in summer. You will save on every 1°C.
- Dry clothes naturally rather than in the dryer where possible.
- Set your fridge to 4–5°C and your freezer to 15–18°C.
- Shop around. Compare energy providers online using your current bill and get the best deal.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can pay as you go. Set up a regular small payment to your provider to avoid the nasty shock of a giant bill each quarter. You can set this up from your bank, wages or directly through Centrepay.

IF YOU NEED HELP

We can help you setup a budget to avoid you getting into trouble or to help you move out of it. Go to: www.c3cares.com.au/enquiries, email: c3cares@myc3church.net or phone: [02] 9972 8688.