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Ways to Keep Your Energy Bills Low This Winter by Jessica Modul

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With shorter days and lower temperatures combined with higher premiums from almost all of the major energy suppliers, it goes without saying that winter is the time of year that spells higher utility bills for everyone. It is therefore useful to be aware of ways in which you can try to keep the cost of lighting and heating your house as low as possible.

The first measure may seem counterintuitive but it is possibly the most important; take out a heating insurance policy. Should you experience a boiler break down or problem with your central heating, a policy covering your boiler, its controls and your entire heating system stands to save you hundreds of pounds in call out fees and labour costs if a qualified engineer is required.

Another way to make savings is to switch your energy supplier. As most providers have increased their premiums, now is the perfect time to look into finding a cheaper deal. If this process seems daunting, consider visiting a price comparison website to find out whether you are getting the best value for money you can on the tariff you are signed up to at the moment.

Even simple things like paying your bills by direct debit or online can save you money. Most energy suppliers offer a discount for those willing to set up a monthly payment plan or to provide payment through their website. Price comparison sites provide information on which companies offer this and how much the savings could be.

It is also worth investigating the different deals on offer. If you are looking to spread costs out across the year, without unexpected increases to your bill, then a fixed rate tariff may be the best plan for you. If you do not want to be tied down for a fixed period, then it is worth researching the variable rate deals that are on offer, although it would be wise to bear in mind that the costs on a variable deal have the potential to increase just as much as they could decrease. If you are on a tariff like this, you should always make a note of the cost per unit you are paying, to save you experiencing any unpleasant surprises when your bill arrives.

There are simpler ways to keep bills down. If you usually limit the time you have your heating on for, reducing your thermostat and leaving the heating on all day could save energy, if your home is poorly insulated. Although this sounds counterintuitive, this means that your boiler and heating system do not have use as much energy to get rooms up to the desired temperature.

By following these measures, you should be able to keep your home warm and inviting while saving some money. No one should have to be cold this winter.

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For those looking to switch providers, Energy Choices provides a comprehensive and impartial price comparison service, covering everything from a business electricity tariffs and boiler insurance policies to domestic packages that include deals boasting a fixed energy costs .

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