Households and small businesses in Ontario pay time-of-use prices for electricity. Time-of-use prices change according to the TIME OF DAY and DAY OF THE WEEK. The peak periods also change by season.

**OFF-PEAK**
evenings, weekends and holidays

**MID-PEAK**
daytime, but not the highest-use periods of the day

**ON-PEAK**
the high demand hours during the day

When demand is low:
Fewer people are using electricity and consumers pay less. That’s because lots of electricity is available to you from lower-cost sources like nuclear and large hydroelectric.

When demand rises:
As the workday begins, more people and businesses turn on their lights, appliances and equipment. The province’s supply of cheaper electricity is used up. It turns to more expensive sources.

Two peak seasons:
- **In summer**, electricity use peaks during the hottest part of the afternoon, when air conditioners are running on high.
- **In winter**, less daylight means electricity use peaks twice: once in the morning when people wake up and turn on their lights and appliances, then again when people get home from work.

Have a retail contract?
If you signed a contract with an electricity retailer you pay the agreed-upon contract price (not time-of-use or tiered prices set by the OEB). Also, your bill will look different — check out the OEB website for more information about retail contracts.

Time-of-use pricing begins with your smart meter, which tells your electricity utility exactly how much power you use and when you use it.

The utility uses that information to charge you for the exact amount of power you use at any given time. Your electricity use will fall into one of three categories.

**ReasOns For Different Prices**

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**How It Works**

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- **Off-peak**
evenings, weekends and holidays
- **Mid-peak**
daytime, but not the highest-use periods of the day
- **On-peak**
the high demand hours during the day

**Reasons for Different Prices**

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**Two Peak Seasons**

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**Ontario Energy Board**
The Ontario Energy Board is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

Aussi disponible en français. This material is also available in other languages. Visit our website or contact our Consumer Relations Centre.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MANAGE ELECTRICITY USE
Try conserving electricity and shifting some usage to weekends and weekday OFF-PEAK times...

- Install a PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT. Set it to reduce energy use when you’re not at home and when you’re sleeping.
- Use LED seasonal lights instead of regular lights.
- SEAL ANY DRAFTS AND LEAKS that let heat out in winter or, in summer, invite muggy air in. In summer, keep blinds and curtains closed to keep out the midday sun.
- Wash your laundry in COLD WATER.
- Many electronic items aren’t fully off unless you PULL THE PLUG. Since each can use between 4 and 10 watts of “phantom power” plug them into a power bar that you can turn off.
- Choose ENERGY-EFFICIENT PRODUCTS such as ENERGY STAR® appliances.
- If you do use air conditioning, set it to 26 C or higher. RAISING YOUR THERMOSTAT by 1 C lowers your electricity bill up to 5%. Better yet, use fans instead.

Find out more:
10 Smart Meter Lane ieso.ca/house  saveONenergy saveonenergy.ca  Ministry of Energy ontario.ca/energy

Use our calculator to estimate your monthly ELECTRICITY and NATURAL GAS BILLS.

Contact our CONSUMER RELATIONS CENTRE (open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
1-877-632-2727 (toll-free within Ontario)
416-314-2455 (within Greater Toronto Area or from outside Canada)
consumerrelations@ontarioenergyboard.ca
@OntEnergyBoard

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD CAN HELP YOU BE AN INFORMED ENERGY CONSUMER

For information on a range of topics visit ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/consumers

TIME-OF-USE ELECTRICITY PRICES

ABOUT 60% OF ENERGY COSTS IN A TYPICAL HOME ARE SPENT ON HEATING AND COOLING.

Install a PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT. Set it to reduce energy use when you’re not at home and when you’re sleeping.

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