

# UTILITIES

& what you should know about them

## WHAT ARE UTILITIES?

Utilities are essential services that your home, apartment, or business needs to keep comfortable and liveable.

There are two types, public and private owned utilities:

- The private "investor-owned" utilities are for-profit and are subject to state regulations.
- The community owns public utilities and regulates certain areas for environmental and health matters.



Did you know there are 18 Utility Companies in Miami-Dade County, FL, serving a population of 2,702,602 people in an area of 1,899 square miles?

## MAJOR UTILITY RATES IN FLORIDA

Water & Sewer

**\$72**

month with JEA

Electricity

**\$128**

month with JEA

Electricity

**\$120**

month with FPL

## DID YOU KNOW?

The average family of four uses 255 gallons of water a day, 1,785 gallons a week, and 7,650 gallons per month.

Suppose all U.S. households practiced water conservation measures and installed water-saving features such as low-flow showerheads or faucet aerators. Water use would decrease by 30 percent, saving an estimated 5.4 billion gallons per day.



### IS YOUR BILL TOO HIGH?

These factors may be adding to your bill:

- Extreme weather
- Longer billing period
- A full house (holidays & summer break) Additional equipment (additional fridge, pool, hot tub, "always-on" equipment)
- Duct leaks, water leaks
- Inadequate insulation



### TIPS TO HELP LOWER YOUR BILL

- Energy efficiency assessments: this is often done for free.
- Investing in efficiency (includes energy efficient light bulbs, thermostat, etc.)
- Water conservation: use less!
- Turn off lights when you are not in room, unplug items when not in use.
- Use blinds or drapes to take advantage of the sun's warmth/ block out the sun.
- Rebates & Incentives!

Read more at [www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/water\\_conservation](http://www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/water_conservation)

#### SOURCES:

- [WWW.MOVE.ORG/UTILITY-BILLS-101/#AVERAGE\\_UTILITY\\_COSTS\\_BY\\_STATE](http://WWW.MOVE.ORG/UTILITY-BILLS-101/#AVERAGE_UTILITY_COSTS_BY_STATE)
- [WWW.MYUTILITY.US/MYUFLORIDA/EDUCATION/DID-YOU-KNOW](http://WWW.MYUTILITY.US/MYUFLORIDA/EDUCATION/DID-YOU-KNOW)
- [WWW.JEA.COM/](http://WWW.JEA.COM/) & [WWW.FPL.COM](http://WWW.FPL.COM)
- [WWW.MIAMIDADE.GOV](http://WWW.MIAMIDADE.GOV)
- [WWW.COUNTYOFFICE.ORG/](http://WWW.COUNTYOFFICE.ORG/)

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