



Consumer Alert: Don't Be Fooled If They Come to Your Door

There have been recent reports of individuals fraudulently posing as door-to-door salespeople or utility workers in an attempt to get residents' ComEd account information, collect a payment or coax themselves into a home. These unscrupulous practices can leave you susceptible to future problems, such as burglaries when your home is unattended.



While most of the scams aren't new, it's important to educate yourself on how to stay ahead of the scammers. MC Squared Energy Services (mc²) and ComEd representatives will never come to your door to ask for your account number, for cash, or to require a prepaid credit card to make a payment on your bill. Here are some practices to live by when it comes to door-to-door sales:

1. **Don't engage.** The easiest way to avoid a hard sell is to keep the door closed. Place a "No Solicitors" sticker on your front door to keep them away.
2. **Never allow anyone into your home.** Be suspicious of aggressive sales tactics from energy supply companies (both electricity and natural gas), alarm companies, cable companies and home improvement services – some may be casing your house to return when you're away.
3. **Be wary of contract offers.** Do not agree to buy on the spot – check on-line reviews and the Better Business Bureau to make a more informed decision. Never sign an agreement when you feel pressured to do so.
4. **Report concerns.** If you believe you have been the target of a door-to-door scam, contact the Illinois Attorney General's office at 1-800-386-5438 (TTY 1-800-964-3013) or visit their website at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/consumers/filecomplaint.html.

Cool Summer Savings

The warmest months of the year – typically July and August – are just around the corner. As outside temperatures rise, most of us tend to set the thermostat lower. But before you do, consider these simple tips to save on energy:

Cover your windows. Close window blinds and draperies – especially those on the sunny side of the house – to reduce the amount of heat coming into the room.

Ventilate your house. During the late evening or early morning when the outside temperature drops below the inside temperature, open windows on opposite sides of the house to create a cross-breeze to let out the hot air.

Use fans. Turn on your ceiling fans to circulate the air and keep it cool.

Vacation turn off. A quick walk around your household to unplug unused appliances, lights and fans before you leave on vacation can help you save on your electric bill. And why not? No one will be home to notice the difference.

Use a programmable thermostat. If you decide to turn the thermostat down, pick up a programmable one that can adjust the temperature when no one is home. You can save 10%–15% in energy costs for every one-degree change you make.

Energy savings programs. mc² recommends that you consider one of the two ComEd programs described below. Both provide credits to your ComEd bill if you reduce your energy load during peak times. There's no cost to enroll and you can remain in either program for as long as you like.

Central AC Cycling

For customers with central air conditioners

If your home has a central air conditioner, this program can earn you bill credits on the hottest days of the summer. ComEd will install a switch on the side of your home or directly on your air conditioner's compressor panel, which allows them to turn your compressor off and on to use less power during cycling events. Your fan will always stay on to circulate cooled air and keep your home comfortable. Cycling is only done when needed, and may only occur on weekdays or for limited periods of time. [Click here](#) for more information.

Peak Time Savings Hours

For customers with new ComEd "Smart Meters"

If your home has a smart meter, you are eligible to enroll in ComEd's new Peak Time Savings program. You can earn credits on your electric bill when you voluntarily reduce your electricity use during Peak Time Savings Hours. You will be notified at least 30 minutes prior to the start of Peak Time Savings Hours, and you choose how to be notified – by phone, text or email – when you enroll. [Click here](#) for more information.

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