

UTILI-FACTS

Electric Cramming

"Cramming" is the practice of adding un-authorized charges for any services to your electric bill without your verified consent. It is illegal in Texas. You are not required to pay for unauthorized charges.



What to Watch For:

- Charges for services from companies that are unfamiliar to you.
- Additional contract documents not associated with your Retail Electric Provider.

A Service Provider Must:

- Inform you about services and their associated charges.
- Get your authorization and maintain that documentation for at least 24 months.

If You Have Been Crammed:

- Notify your electric company immediately.
- Request that the disputed charges be removed from your account.
- Do not pay the disputed charges, but pay the rest of your electric bill on time. Your electric service cannot be disconnected for non-payment of any disputed charges.
- Ask for a refund if you have already paid for disputed charges.
- An unfavorable credit report cannot be filed against you or any customer who has not paid disputed charges unless the charges are later found to be valid.
- If you are unable to come to a satisfactory resolution with your electric provider, file a complaint with the PUC by calling 1-888- 782-8477.

QUESTIONS:

Call: 1-888-782-8477, in Austin 512-936-7120
(TTY 512-936-7136) (FAX 512-936-7003)

Write: PUC - Customer Protection Division
P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326

Online: <http://www.puc.texas.gov/consumer/complaint/Complaint.aspx>

