

Heating and Cooling Your Home (1 of 3)

Try to minimize the number of times that doors to the outside are opened and closed. Each time you open the door, outside air enters the house.

If your heating system has a pilot light turn it off during the summer. A pilot light can cost \$3-\$5 per month to stay lit - why leave it on when you aren't using it?

Use an exhaust fan to blow hot air out of your kitchen while cooking. The savings in your cooling costs far outweigh the electricity use of the fan.

Limit activities that add heat or humidity to your home to cooler times of the day or to times when nobody is home. For example, turn on your dishwasher as you leave the house or let dishes air dry rather than use the dishwasher's heater.

Each degree that you raise the thermostat on your cooling system typically saves 2% on your cooling bill. Energy experts recommend setting your thermostat at 78° F or higher.

Lower your thermostat at night and whenever the house is unoccupied.

Install an automatic setback thermostat that adjusts temperature according to your daily schedule.

The breeze created by a ceiling fan or portable fan typically makes you feel just as comfortable at a temperature 6° F warmer. Raising the thermostat 6° F can save 10% on your cooling bill.



Consider using a dehumidifier instead of always turning on the air conditioning. You will be comfortable at much higher temperatures if you reduce the humidity.

Close off and don't heat unoccupied rooms (unless you have a heat pump).

Replace furnace filters. The dirtier they are the harder the fan furnace works.

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ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS: HOME HEATING & COOLING (2)

Heating and Cooling Your Home (2 of 3)

Arrange furniture and drapes so that air circulation from heating and cooling sources is not blocked.

In winter, close dampers on unused fireplaces to prevent heated air from escaping up the chimney, except those fireplaces that are required by code to have the damper open at all times. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a 48-inch window wide open. It allows warm air to go right up the chimney.

Fireplace glass doors can help reduce heat loss.

If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue.

When you use the fireplace, reduce heat loss by opening dampers in the bottom of the firebox (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly -- approximately 1 inch -- and close doors leading into the room. Lower the thermostat setting to between 50° and 55° F.

Fireplace owners: Check the seal on the fireplace flue damper and make it as snug as possible. Add caulking around the fireplace hearth. Use grates made of C-shaped metal tubes to draw cool room air into the fireplace and circulate warm air back into the room.

Use bath and kitchen fans sparingly when the air conditioner is operating to avoid pulling warm, moist air into your home.

Inspect and clean both the indoor and outdoor coils of your air conditioner. The indoor coil in your air conditioner acts as a magnet for dust because it is constantly wetted during the cooling season. Dirt build-up on the indoor coil is the single most common cause of poor efficiency. The outdoor coil must also be checked periodically for dirt build-up and cleaned if necessary.



Over most of the cooling season, keep the house closed tight during the day. Don't let in unwanted heat and humidity. Ventilate at night either naturally or with fans.

Whole-house fans help cool your home by pulling cool air through the house and exhausting warm air through the attic. They are effective when operated at night and when the outside air is cooler than the inside.

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Heating and Cooling Your Home (3of 3)

Don't set your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and, therefore, unnecessary expense.

While fans cannot replace air conditioners, they can provide supplemental cooling, especially on mild summer days. Substituting fans for air conditioners can reduce energy use by 60% or more.

Room air conditioners must be installed on a flat, even surface so that the inside drainage system and other mechanisms operate efficiently.

If you use a window air conditioner, set the fan speed on high, except on very humid days. When humidity is high, set the fan speed on low for more comfort. The low speed on humid days will make for a more comfortable home by removing more moisture from the air.

Don't place lamps or televisions near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Room air conditioners should be covered or removed and stored in winter.

If you use a room air conditioner, check your unit's air filter once a month and clean or replace filters as necessary. Keeping the filter clean can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5% to 15%.



Holes in the seal between the air conditioner and the window frame allow cool air to escape from your home. Moisture can damage this seal, so inspect the seal annually to ensure it makes contact with the unit's metal case.

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