

Spring 2009

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With the **start of summer** and current high energy costs, Americans are looking for ways to **cool** their homes, stay comfortable and **save money**.

When you reduce the amount of energy used in your home, you save money on energy bills, and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions generated by burning fossil fuels to make that electricity.

Taking energy smart steps can help keep your air conditioning costs as low as possible this summer.

- Use a higher (warmer) thermostat setting during peak periods or when the area is unoccupied. A 75 to 80 degree setting will cut power consumption by 15%.
- Use a dehumidifier in the basement to prevent excess moisture seepage through the house
- Don't let heat build up all day and then try to cool areas quickly. Start units earlier in the day and cool areas slowly before they are occupied.
- Draw shades or window blinds to reduce solar and outdoor heat.
- Regularly change or clean

filters and check airflow for blockage or frost on the evaporator coil

- Have the air conditioner checked and cleaned at the start of the season. Without regular maintenance an air conditioner loses about 5% of its original efficiency for each year of operation.
- Don't let hot air in and your cool air out. Find and seal air leaks that cause drafts and make your cooling system work overtime.

Finally, make sure that you have the proper sized air conditioner for your home. A unit that is too small won't properly cool a room, but it is also a mistake to have an air conditioner that is too large. Energy Star, a federal government organization, explains "if a unit is too large, it will cool the room quickly, but only remove some of the humidity. This leaves the room with a damp, clammy feeling. A properly sized unit will remove humidity effectively as it cools." Determining the right size of an air conditioner involves calculating room size and other factors. Call today to make sure yours is sized correctly!

did you know?

The recommended energy efficient summer temperature is 78 degrees. Set the thermostat as high as possible. For every degree that you raise your thermostat setting on your air conditioner, your energy use will be reduced by 3 to 5 percent.



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get with the Program

Save energy by taking advantage of periods in the day when your home doesn't need to be kept as cool. A programmable thermostat, set and used properly, can save about **\$100** in energy costs each year.



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