

Summer Energy Tips

During the summer months, keeping the house cool can be a difficult and costly task. Keep these tips in mind to get the most out of the cool air.

- During the day, block the heat from the sun by closing windows, doors, and curtains.
- To save money on cooling costs, turn the thermostat to 80 degrees or higher when you are sleeping or away from home. Raising the temperature by 5 degrees for eight hours can reduce your cooling costs by 3-5 percent.
- Look for an air conditioning unit that is Energy Star approved.
- Avoid creating unnecessary heat and humidity in the house during summer days. Plan to do heat and moisture creating activities such as washing dishes, doing laundry, bathing, and cooking before noon or past 8 p.m.
- Limit the amount of time you run kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans. Only run them for as long as it takes to get rid of any odors to minimize losing cool air.
- If you use a window air conditioning unit, make sure it fits correctly into the window to reduce the amount of cool air lost.
- Consider using a window fan, which requires as little as 1/10 the amount of energy needed to run air conditioner.
- Clean air ducts every 4-5 years, or as needed.