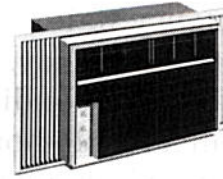




COOLING YOUR HOUSE ENERGY WISE



- Set your cooling thermostat as high (usually around 78 degrees F.) as comfort permits. The higher the setting, the more energy you'll save. You can set the temperature for 82 degrees F. **if** you turn on one of those slow-moving ceiling fans. The bigger the room, the bigger the fan you will need.
- **Don't** set your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn your air conditioner on. It will not cool faster, but it will cool to a lower temperature than you need and use more energy.
- Installing insulation is generally one of the best things you can do to reduce your home's cooling costs.
- Close cooling vents, and turn off window refrigerated air-conditioners in unused rooms. Keep doors to unused rooms closed.
- If possible, install window refrigerated air-conditioning units on the shady side of your home. If it's located in direct sunlight, it'll have to work harder and use more energy.
- When building a new home or refurbishing an old one, choose light-colored roof shingles to reflect more of the sun's heat.
- Open windows during the pleasant days of spring and summer, and let the outside air cool your home instead of using your air conditioner.
- Draw blinds, shades, or drapes to block the sun during the hottest part of the day.
- Install awnings over windows that are exposed to direct sunlight. Plant shade trees strategically around your home. Properly selected and planted shade trees can save up to \$80 annually on the average electric bill.
- **Don't** put appliances that generate heat, like lamps and TV sets, under your wall-mounted cooling thermostat. The heat rising from them can cause the thermostat to read a temperature that's higher than the actual room temperature and lead to overcooling the whole house.
- Keep your cooling system well tuned with periodic maintenance by a professional service representative. Ask your service representative how the energy efficiency of the system may be increased.
- When selecting a central air conditioning unit, **be sure** to choose one with the proper capacity and highest efficiency. Oversized units especially are to be avoided not only because they draw more energy than is necessary, but also because they cannot dehumidify properly.
- Choose a central air conditioning unit or room air conditioning unit that uses a minimal amount of electricity to complete its task. High Seasonal Energy

Efficiency Ratios (SEERs) – such as 13.0 SEER and above – correspond with greater efficiency. Energy Efficiency Ratios (EERs) provide the same guidance for room air conditioning units.

- Install a whole-house ventilating fan in your attic or in an upstairs window to help air circulate in your home. Although not a replacement for a central air conditioning system, a fan is an effective way to stay comfortable on milder days.
- Consider using a ceiling fan with your window air conditioner to spread the cooled air to other rooms, **but** be sure the air conditioner is large enough to help cool the additional space.
- Clean or replace air conditioning filters. Dirty air filters should be cleaned or replaced **every** month. Foam filters can be rinsed with water and wrung dry. Fiberglass filters need to be replaced. This will reduce fan usage and save electricity.
- No matter what kind of central air conditioning system, you have, **clean** the outside condenser coil **once a year**. To clean, turn off the unit and spray the coils with water at a low pressure. (High water pressure may bend the fins.) Try to spray from the top of the unit down and outward.
- **Keep lights low or off when not needed.** Electric lights generate heat and add to the load on your air conditioner.
- Locate the compressor units of central air conditioning and heat pump systems in an outside area that is shaded by the house or by trees and plants. Units should be kept clean and free of any plant or tree overgrowth.
- In 2006 and 2007, you can qualify for a federal tax credit **if** you purchase a central air conditioner or heat pump rated at 15 SEER and 13 EER.
- Cook and use other heat-generating appliances in the early morning and late evening hours whenever possible.
- Use vents and exhaust fans to pull heat and moisture from the attic, kitchen, bath, and laundry directly to the outside if you don't have air conditioning.
- Three different types of fans can help you cool your home in different ways: ceiling fans, window fans, and whole-house fans. The correct use of fans can make your home much more comfortable for a fraction of the cost of running air conditioning. A central air conditioning system can use up to ten kilowatt hours per hour to operate. In contrast, a fan (ceiling or portable) may use one kilowatt hour per hour to operate. That's a potential savings of up to 90% on those days when a fan will do the trick. If you plan to leave for a few minutes or more, turn your fan off. Running it while you're not there is a definite energy waster.

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