

## **Tips For Saving Energy During Hot Summer Months**

**Close shades, drapes and blinds during the day** (all directions).

**Wear light weight clothing** (short sleeves, shorts, cotton).

**Set the air conditioning thermostat at 78 degrees or higher.** Raise it a few degrees higher when away in the day. A lower air conditioning temperature makes your costs much higher. Setting your air conditioner at 70 degrees instead of 78 can almost double your operating cost!

**Don't choose a lower air conditioning temperature when you first turn it on.** It won't cool faster -- whenever it's running it's cooling as fast as it can. Set low, it cools longer, not faster.

**When weather is mild, use fans instead of the air conditioner.** Your central air conditioner will use about 100 times more energy than a fan at medium speed.

**If you have ceiling fans, run the fans and the air conditioner at the same time** but set the air conditioner a few degrees higher, to 80 or 81 degrees. With the breeze from a fan, you should feel as cool as you would at 78 degrees with no fans – but you'll reduce your costs by about 15%-25%.

**Use a microwave instead of the range/oven.** The microwave doesn't heat the kitchen.

**Keep windows and doors closed while air conditioning.**

**Change the air conditioner's air filter monthly during heavy use.** When it's clogged, air flow is restricted -- cooling costs rise, and your system may eventually suffer a compressor failure with a \$1,000+ repair bill!

**Arrange items in your refrigerator for quick removal and return.** Your refrigerator cools the food but heats the kitchen! The longer the door is open, the longer it runs, heating the kitchen and raising your air conditioning costs.

**Vent the clothes dryer to the out-of-doors.** Otherwise it pours heat and moisture into the house air.

**Clean the dryer lint filter frequently and check the outdoor vent opening.** When lint slows the airflow, the dryer runs longer. When the vent is clogged, the clothes get a long hot damp costly tumbling.

**Drink plenty of cool liquids.** Avoid caffeine or alcohol. Eat lightly. Cook outdoors.

**Plant shade trees.** Outside shade can reduce air conditioning costs 30%. Shade on the east and west is most important.

**Seal air leaks around doors and windows.** Use caulk and weatherstripping.

**With central AC or heat pump, keep all air conditioning supply registers open, don't close off rooms or registers.** That doesn't save money, and it may lead to costly problems.

**Check for air duct leaks.** Duct leaks in the attic or under the house cost you money.

**Run the AC thermostat set on "AUTO", never on FAN.**

**Keep up the habit of turning off lights as you leave a room, especially in summer.** Lights add a lot of heat to the room. 99% of a light's energy use is converted to heat, 1% to light. Use only as much light as you need.