

## Appliance Tips -- Easier Chores and Easy Savings

Turn off anything you're not using including all equipment and appliances, televisions, VCR's, computers (including monitors) and lights!

Refrigerator/Freezer: Give the unit breathing room, clean the coils, and don't set temperatures too low. Fresh foods keep at 37 to 42 degrees, frozen foods at 0 to 5 degrees. Defrost refrigerators and freezers before ice buildup becomes too thick.

Use your microwave instead of a conventional electric range or oven

Do laundry, vacuuming, cooking etc. early in the morning or late in the evening when the outdoor temperature is cooler.

Arrange items in your refrigerator for quick removal and return. The longer the door is open, the longer it runs to keep the contents cool.

Use ceiling fans and room fans in occupied rooms but keep fans off in unoccupied areas.

## Air Conditioning Tips -- Cool Ways to Save

Heating and cooling your home uses more energy and drains more energy dollars than any other system in your home.

Use a fan with your window air conditioner to spread the cool air through your home.

Use a programmable thermostat with your air conditioner to adjust the setting at night or when no one is home.

Install white window shades, drapes, or blinds to reflect heat away from the house and close windows facing direct sunlight during the day.

Air conditioners: Clean or replace filters regularly. Provide shading for your air conditioner unit outside. Keep weeds and debris away to ensure proper air-flow.

Keep the thermostat set at 78 degrees or higher when the house is occupied and turn the AC off or set the thermostat warmer when the house is unoccupied. Installing a programmable thermostat will do this automatically. A lower air conditioner setting makes your costs much higher. Setting your air conditioner at 70 degrees instead of 78 will almost double your operating cost!

Don't select a lower thermostat temperature when you first turn on the A/C. It will not cool any faster. Whenever it's running it's cooling as fast as it can. If you set low, it cools longer, not faster.

### Washer/Dryer/Dishwasher Tips -- Clean Up with These Ideas

When using the clothes washer and dryer, do only full loads; wash in cold water whenever possible. Clean the dryer lint trap after each use. Hang clothes to dry whenever possible.

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

Dishwasher: Wash only full loads in the dishwasher. Use the energy saver, air-dry cycle or better yet open the door and let dishes dry naturally.

### Passive Ways To Save -- Think, Natural

To keep your house cooler in the summer, install shades, awnings, sun-screens to windows facing south and west to block light. Use exterior shading devices or plants to shade your home from the sun.

Plant trees or shrubs to shade air conditioning units, but not block the airflow. An outdoor unit operating in the shade uses less electricity.

Drink plenty of cool liquids and wear light loose comfortable clothing to help the body regulate temperature when the thermostat is set higher than normal.

Open windows to take advantage of natural ventilation when the outdoor temperature permits. Make sure a/c is off when windows are open.

Deciduous trees planted on the south and west sides will keep your house cool in the summer. Just three trees, properly placed around a house, can save between \$100 and \$250 annually in cooling and heating costs. Daytime air temperatures can be 3 degrees to 6 degrees cooler in the shade.

### Indoor Tips -- Keep the Heat Out, the Cool In

Don't forget to close the fireplace damper to prevent cool air from escaping through the chimney.

Caulk around windows, doors, pipes, and anywhere else air can leak in and out. Use weather stripping around windows, doors and pipes.

Have your heating and cooling ducts tested for air leakage. Leaking ducts can affect the efficiency of your heating or cooling system by up to 20%. Make any necessary repairs.

Insulate ceilings to appropriate standards. Make sure attics have adequate ventilation. You can save more if you also insulate walls, floors and duct work.

Ensure windows are completely closed when heating or cooling.

Use curtains, shades and blinds to block the sun's rays from directly entering the home.

### Outdoor Tips – Keep the Heat Out, the Cool In

Cook outdoors whenever possible.

Seal gaps around pipes, fans and vents that go through walls, ceilings and floors, and accesses to unheated spaces.

### Water Heaters – Beat the heat

Lower the thermostat on your electric water heater; 115° - 120° is acceptable in most cases.

Take showers instead of baths to reduce hot water use. Install Aerating, low-flow faucets and showerheads to reduce water and energy consumption.

Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.

Install insulating blankets to keep heat inside the water heater.

### Lights – Bright Ways to Save

Convert incandescent bulbs to fluorescent lamps with screw-in bases. Fluorescent lights give the same amount and quality of light as incandescent bulbs, yet use a fraction of the energy and last up to ten times longer. Or, use low-wattage incandescent light bulbs.

## ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT---AVERAGE OPERATING COST

<u>Equipment type</u>	<u>kwh per month</u>	<u>Cost per month</u>
Water Heater	390	\$58.50
Refrigerator-Freezer	175	\$26.25
Range (oven and surface units)	80	\$12.00
Toaster Oven	12	\$1.80
Microwave Oven	10	\$1.50
Dishwasher	25	\$3.75
Clothes Washer (30 loads)	12	\$1.80
Clothes Dryer (30 loads)	110	\$16.50
Lighting	60	\$9.00
Television or Stereo	24	\$3.60
Big Screen/Plasma TV	90	\$13.50
Home Computer	35	\$5.25
Vacuum Cleaner	3	\$0.45
Clock	1	\$0.15
Automatic Coffee Pot	10	\$1.50
Hair Dryer	3	\$0.45
Iron	4	\$0.60
Ceiling Fan	49	\$7.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>1093</b>	<b>\$163.95</b>
Pool Pump (8 hrs per day)	240 kwh	\$36.00
Freezer	210 kwh	\$31.50

### Estimated Daily Cost

Air conditioning thermostat at 80 degrees	\$4.54
Air conditioning thermostat at 78 degrees	\$6.44
Air conditioning thermostat at 75 degrees	\$8.15

### Heating costs can be three times cooling cost per hour of operation

Electric usage based on a 1,500 sq.ft. house with a family of four.

Electric costs are based on .15 cents per kwh, including taxes and other fees

# **AIR CONDITIONING INFORMATION**

## **SEER – What Does it Mean**

**SEER means Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio and the higher the rating the more efficient the unit. If your present air conditioner is due to be replaced, consider the purchase of a more efficient unit.**

## **Understanding Air Conditioning**

**When purchasing an air conditioner, it is important to buy the size for your needs. The more energy efficient your home, the smaller unit you will need. A central air conditioning unit that runs for less than 20 minutes each time it switches on might be oversized. Units that constantly turn on and off are “short cycling” and might not be removing enough moisture from the air and using more energy than they should**

## **Ceiling Fans**

**Ceiling fans and other types of fans move Air through the home and enable you to reduce air conditioning cost by as much as six percent. You can raise your thermostat setting by 2 to 4 degrees with the installation and use of fans.**

## **Maintenance Checklist**

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Every Month:</b>       | <b>Clean all vents and grills inside the home with a vacuum cleaner and clean or replace the air filters.</b> |
| <b>Every Year:</b>        | <b>Have a qualified technician check the coolant level, the thermostat and the ductwork for leaks</b>         |
| <b>Every Three Years:</b> | <b>Have a qualified technician check and clean the condenser and evaporator coils.</b>                        |
|                           | <b>Check fan blades for tightness and lubricate fan motors</b>  |
|                           | <b>Check voltage and amperage under full load</b>   |
|                           | <b>Check all safety controls</b>  |

# **WATER CONSERVATION INFORMATION**

## **Indoor Water Use**

**Laundering requires 40 – 60 gallons per load. Adjust water level according to size of load or load the wash to capacity.**

**Dishwashers use 15 – 25 gallons of water per cycle; so wash a full load instead of a partial load.**

**Don't run water while washing and rinsing dishes.**

**Store drinking water in the refrigerator so you don't have to run the tap for the water to get cold.**

**Invest in water conserving showerheads and faucet aerators. These devices control water flow yet do not impair the effectiveness of the stream.**

**A leaky toilet can waste thousands of gallons a month. Periodically check the toilet tank for leak. Here's how: Place a few drops of food coloring in the tank, allow the color to settle for 10 – 15 minutes. If the coloring filters into the bowl, there is a hidden leak that should be repaired.**

**A drippy faucet can account for significant water loss, periodically check faucets for leaks.**

## **Outdoor Water Use**

**Efficient irrigation is a sound horticultural practice. Excessive watering creates problems for you lawn or landscape.**

**Water during the early morning hours when temperatures and winds are lowest.**

**Position sprinklers to spray water on the lawn, not on sidewalks and driveways.**

**Use a "Rainstat" to avoid sprinkling during and after adequate amounts of rainfall.**

**Raise the lawn mower blade; cutting your lawn higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper.**

**Mulch 2 – 3 inches deep around trees and shrubs.**

**Cover your swimming pool when not in use to avoid evaporation.**

**Fit your hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle so that water is not wasted when car washing or sprinkling.**

**Sweep sidewalks and driveways—Don't use the hose to wash them.**

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