

SUMMER ENERGY SAVING TIPS

When it's hot outside, your home's fans and air conditioning are your refuge. However, it's easy to run up your summer energy bills unless you adopt a few sensible energy saving habits.

Here are easy strategies from the Department of Energy to help save energy while you are trying to keep cool:

Use Your Windows to Gain Cool Air & Keep Out Heat

- If you live in a climate where it cools off at night, turn off your cooling system and open your windows while sleeping. Shut the windows and blinds in the morning to capture the cool air.
- Close curtains and blinds during the day to prevent heat gain through your windows.

Operate Your Thermostat Efficiently

- Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible. Keep your house warmer than normal when you are away and lower the thermostat to 78°F only when you are home.
- Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting when you first turn on your A/C. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in unnecessary expense.

Use Fans & Ventilation Strategies to Cool Your Home

- When you use A/C, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4°F with no reduction in comfort. Turn off ceiling fans when you leave the room. Remember that fans cool people, not rooms, by creating a wind chill effect.
- When you shower or take a bath, use the bathroom fan for 15 minutes or less to remove heat and humidity from your home.

Keep Your Cooling System Running Efficiently

- Change filters regularly. A clogged filter reduces A/C efficiency and puts added strain on the fan motor.
- Avoid placing lamps, scented burners, or TV's near your A/C thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause it to run longer than necessary.
- Vacuum air registers regularly to remove any dust buildup. Ensure that furniture and other objects are not blocking the airflow through your registers.

For more ways to stay cool while saving energy, visit the Utilities section of your community's website for more helpful tips. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to saving energy resources!

SOURCE: Department of Energy, <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/spring-and-summer-energy-saving-tips>