

Keep Cool, Save Money

The heat of summer means increased energy bills. But if you follow these simple, inexpensive tips from the Department of Energy, you'll ensure you stay cool and save money throughout the season.

USE YOU WINDOWS

Natural ventilation is one of the most of effective ways to stay cool and save on energy at night. Turn off your AC at night and open the windows while you sleep. Shut them and lower the blinds during the day to keep cool air inside. Window coverings can also prevent heat gain and improve energy efficiency.

THERMOSTAT STRATEGIES

Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible when you're home to lower your cooling bill. When you're away, keep your house warmer than normal and lower the setting when you return for maximum saving. Remember: A colder setting than normal when you turn on the air will not cool your home any faster and may result in unnecessary expense.

FANS AND VENTILATION

Fans help circulate air and can keep you cooler at a higher thermostat setting. Remember to turn them off



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REAL ESTATE 101

High-Efficiency Heating & Cooling

The living space in Energy Star-certified homes and apartments are served by ventilation systems that continuously exchange indoor air with outdoor air to reduce the indoor air pollutants in your home. Systems are also installed in bathrooms and kitchens to more rapidly remove moisture and cooking contaminants that can be harmful to occupant health and to the durability of your home. Learn more about energy efficiency at the Department of Energy's website at <https://bit.ly/2blB97G>.

when you leave; fans cool people, not rooms. Bathroom fans can remove heat and humidity when you shower or bathe. Laundry rooms and kitchens also benefit from

ventilation to the outside.

KEEP YOUR COOLING SYSTEM RUNNING EFFICIENTLY

A cooling system checkup

as summer begins can help keep your equipment running in top shape. Avoid placing lamps or electronics near thermostats. Thermostats sense heat from appliances

that keeps them running longer than necessary. Also, make sure furniture and other objects are not blocking air-flow through your registers.

MORE ENERGY-EFFICIENT COOLING TIPS

- Avoid using the oven on hot days. Cook on the stove, use a microwave or an outdoor grill.
- Install efficient lighting. Incandescent lights produce more heat than light.
- Take advantage of daylight instead of artificial lighting, but avoid direct sunlight.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes. Consider air drying both dishes and clothing.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Minimize activities that generate a lot of heat, such as running a computer, burning open flames, running a dishwasher, and using hot devices such as curling irons or hair dryers.
- Seal cracks and openings to prevent warm air from leaking into your home.
- Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.
- Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.



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REAL ESTATE 101



Real Estate 101

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HOMEWISE GLOSSARY

Abstract: An abbreviation of the cardinal aspects of all recorded deeds, mortgages, leases and other instruments affecting the title to a particular piece of land.

SOURCE: Homeclosing101.org

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