

10 tips KEEPING YOUR HOME COOL THIS SUMMER

Stay cool this summer, reduce your energy use, and save on utility bills. There are many simple, inexpensive or free things you can do around the house that will help you beat the heat. Here are a few.

- 1 Close doors to unused parts of the home and close A/C vents to those area, too.
- 2 Install a programmable thermostat on your central A/C. Then raise the temperature in occupied rooms a few degrees more than your usual. Most people cool to 72°F, or so. Set it to 78°F for optimal savings, or find your comfort point somewhere in between.
- 3 Keep the heat out during the day with shades or awnings, especially on the south side of the house. Open the windows in the evening and use fans to draw in cooler night air.
- 4 Seal cracks around windows and doors, eliminate air leaks around window air conditioners. Insulate wherever possible.
- 5 Use natural ventilation whenever practical. Install ceiling fans or a whole house fan to make the most of it.
- 6 Turn off appliances, computers, TV's etc., when not in use. Flat-screen TV's and many other devices continue to use electricity when "off." Plug them into power strips and turn the power strip to make sure "off" really means "off."
- 7 Replace conventional light bulbs with compact fluourecent lights or LED lighting. CFL's and LED's use far less energy and generate little heat.
- 8 Use less hot water. Take shorter showers (not baths). Use warm or cool water to do laundry.
- 9 Insulate your water heater and piping.
- 10 Create shade for the future. Plant shade trees on the south and east sides of the house.

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