



Top 10 Tips to Stay Cool, Save Money

Easy and inexpensive solutions for business or home

Maintain air filters and HVAC equipment

Well-maintained equipment runs more efficiently, so replace or clean filters as needed and have your air conditioner unit serviced annually.

Set your thermostat as high as is comfortable

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be. Running the AC at 78°F instead of 72°F can save 6%-18% on your cooling bill.

Draw your drapes

Keep your blinds, shades and curtains closed on south and west-facing windows during the day to block the heat of direct sunlight.

Stop cool air from escaping

Cool air can go right out the window. Add weatherstripping on doors and windows and caulk the cracks to keep cool air in and hot air from leaking into your home.

Properly insulate your attic

Install modern insulation to lower heating and cooling costs. On warm days, attic temperatures can get up to 140°F. In high cooling climates, a radiant barrier installed under the roof deck and/or a continuous ridge and soffit vent can effectively lower attic temperatures.

Plant trees or shrubs for shade

A good landscaping plan can do wonders. For instance, properly placed trees around the house can save between \$100 and \$250 annually.

Install ceiling fans

A ceiling fan can make a room feel 6 or 7 degrees cooler while using less energy than a 100-watt light bulb. Run fans only when people are in the room.

Go oven-less at meal time

Use the microwave, toaster or a counter-top grill, all of which use less energy than a full-sized oven, when you need to prepare small portions of food.

Unplug electronics and appliances when not in use

Use multiple-outlet strips so you can turn everything off with one flip of a switch. Leaving a computer on all day can cost about 21 cents per day, or about \$75 per year.

Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs)

Lighting makes up about 10% of home energy costs, and CFLs can save up to 75% of that energy. They also last longer, saving money on replacements.