

Tips on Keeping Cool and Safe This Summer

Well, and Save Some Money

Use Your Windows

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If it is significantly cooler at night, turn off your cooling system and open your windows. In the morning, close the windows to trap the cool air in. Don't forget to close the blinds. Closing blinds and drapes helps to prevent heat gain through your windows.



Operate Your Thermostat Efficiently

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- Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer. It takes significantly less energy to cool a home to 75 degrees than 70 degrees if it is 95 degrees outside. The smaller the difference between the inside of your home and the outside temperature, the easier it is to cool. Although 75 degrees may seem a little high, it is much more pleasant than 95 degrees and a lot less expensive over the long haul than it is cooling to 70 degrees.



Operate Your Thermostat Efficiently

- Most people make the mistake of moving the thermostat to their desired temperatures and then raising or lowering the thermostat when they're comfortable. For our purposes (which is to save money and energy), we want to keep our thermostat set at a constant temperature. Let's not work our A/C units overtime for a couple of degrees of difference in temperature!



Operate Your Thermostat Efficiently

- And, also, I know most of our minds tell us the same thing when our homes reach the desired temperature...we want to turn the A/C unit off. That's not exactly what you want to do to your system. Remember that overtime conversation we had earlier? When it gets hot again, and you have to turn the A/C unit on again, it's going to have to work overtime to cool your home again. Put it on automatic and let it do its job! It'll save you in the long run. The best way to handle an A/C unit is to program it and forget it!

Operate Your Thermostat Efficiently

- If you don't have a programmable thermostat, it may be worth the investment.
- And one more thing, avoid setting your thermostat at a cooler setting than normal when you turn on your A/C. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and an unnecessary expense.

Use Fans And Ventilation Strategies To Cool Your Home

Use Fans and Ventilation Strategies

- If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4°F with no reduction in comfort.



Use Fans and Ventilation Strategies

- Turn off ceiling fans when you leave the room. Remember that fans cool people, not rooms, by creating a wind chill effect. It's like hitting that little button in your car to circulate the air and keep the car cooler. It's the same effect. Turn on a ceiling fan and circulate the air!
- When you shower or take a bath, use the bathroom fan to remove the heat and humidity from your home. Your laundry room might also benefit from spot ventilation. Make sure bathroom and kitchen fans are vented to the outside (not just to the attic).

Keep Your Cooling System Running Efficiently

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- We tune up our cars, we rework our hard drives on our computers when they're sluggish, but how many of us think about maintenance on our HVAC systems? Just like any other machine, HVAC systems need regular maintenance as well in order to function properly.

Keep Your Cooling System Running Efficiently

- Avoid placing lamps or TV sets near your room thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.
- Next are air vents, let's not cover those up, okay? Your ventilation system is just that; it needs to ventilate. Don't cover the vents with drapes, coverings, and let's not let them get dusty. Clean them and the air will, well...flow.

Don't Heat Your Home With Appliances And Lighting

Don't Heat Your Home With Appliances

- How many days do we really want to cook in the summer, or even at all? We all go through it, but it may actually be a good thing for your air conditioning system if you don't. Well, not completely, but let's explore this a bit, shall we? When you use your oven, how much hotter does it get in your house? A lot hotter! On hot days, avoid using the oven; cook on the stove, use a microwave oven, or grill outside.



Don't Heat Your Home With Appliances

- Install efficient lighting that runs cooler. Only about 10-15% of the electricity that incandescent lights consume results in light – the rest is turned into heat!
- 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. Even stereos and televisions will add some heat to your home.

Keep Hot Air From Leaking Into Your Home

- Seal cracks and openings to prevent warm air from leaking into your home, and cool air from leaking out of your home.
- Add caulk or weather-stripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

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- Now that we've figured out how to weatherproof our home, we can relax a little easier knowing we'll be saving money and energy

Lower Your Water Heating Cost

- Heating water accounts for about 18% of the energy consumed in your home.
- Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). You'll not only save energy, but you'll avoid scalding your hands.

Lower Your Water Heating Cost

- Take short showers instead of baths. Now this only works if we, indeed, take short showers.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes. Consider air drying both dishes and clothing.

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- For more information on conservation visit www.monroega.com.
- Information used in this presentation is not solely the opinion of the City of Monroe. Outside research and studies were used in gathering this information to provide the most accurate information.
- <http://energy.gov/articles/energy-saver-101-infographic-home-cooling>
- <https://www.directenergy.com/learning-center/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency-tips-summer>