

# Got a minute?

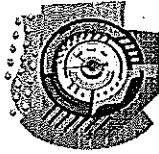
## Save hundreds of \$\$\$

Saving energy in your home doesn't require a major investment of money or even your time. The tips listed below will cost you little of nothing and could reduce your annual energy bill by 25% or more!

### Summer Saving Tips

#### Maintain and use your air conditioner wisely

- Set the thermostat at 78° or higher and dress appropriately.
- Clean or replace filters at least once a month.
- Turn off the air conditioner when you are going to be gone for several hours and draw the shades to keep heat out. It takes less energy to re-cool the house when you return than it does to keep it cool while you are gone.
- Keep heat-generating appliances away from the thermostat, minimizing the use.
- Complement your air conditioner by using fans (fans use much less electricity than an air conditioner).



#### Lights/ Ceiling Fans/ Draperies

- Again use compact fluorescent lights (CFL) they use as little as ¼ the amount of electricity used by incandescent bulbs.
- Turn off all unnecessary lights and electronics.
- Put a fan blowing in a window on the cool side of the house which will push out hot air while pulling cool air into the rest of the house.
- Turn ceiling fans counter-clockwise to push air down and keep rooms cool in summer.
- Close shades during the day to reduce solar heat gains.
- Open shades and blinds on cool but sunny days.
- White blinds, shades and curtains reflect sunlight (dark colors absorb it).
- Close storm windows and doors to keep cool air in.

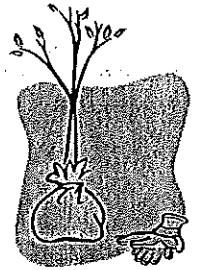


#### Water heaters/ Insulation

- Reduce the thermostat on your water heater.
- Make sure attics and exterior walls and floors are properly insulated.
- Eliminate air leaks between the air conditioner and window with foam insulation or weather stripping.

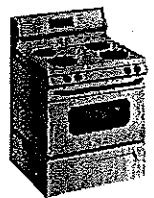
#### Landscaping

- Air conditioners work more efficiently when shaded (but make sure trees and shrubs do not block air flow).
- Plant deciduous trees on the west and south sides of your yard, you can shade your home from sunlight during the hottest parts of the day.
- Rocks and cement hold and radiate heat.



#### Other tips

- On very hot days, minimize the use of dryers, washers, ovens, stoves and other appliances that generate heat.
- Days when the temperature reaches 90° or more, it is best to wait until after 6:00 pm before cooking, doing laundry and washing dishes.



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