



Stay Cool This Summer

Without Heating Up Your Power Bill

Heating and cooling costs make up nearly 50 percent of your annual energy costs. Small changes to your thermostat can add big savings to your home's heating and cooling costs. Use the following tips this summer to stay cool and save electricity.

Keep your thermostat no lower than 78°. Each additional degree below 78° adds about three percent to your energy costs.

To keep air circulating freely, check filters at least once monthly and change them when needed. Also, clean dust and lint from air outlets.

If you use a window air conditioner, seal all cracks and open areas around the unit. Check the filter regularly and clean or replace the filter when needed.

Use fans instead of, or in addition to, air conditioning.

Close windows and drapes during the hottest times of the day.

Use your kitchen exhaust vent when cooking and your bathroom exhaust fan when showering to keep moist heat from circulating in your home. Remember to turn the exhaust fan off within 20 minutes after cooking or bathing.

For more information about saving electricity and saving money on your electric utility bill, visit us online at www.ncpublicpower.com.

Use the following tips year-round to decrease your electric usage and your monthly electric bill.

In the summer, keep your thermostat no lower than 78°. Each additional degree below 78° adds about three percent to your energy costs.

In the winter, keep your thermostat set to 68-72°. Heat pumps operate differently than other heating systems, so follow the correct tips for your home heating system.

Limit use of portable space heaters.

If you use a window air conditioner, seal all cracks and open areas around the unit. Check the filter regularly and clean or replace the filter when needed.

Use fans instead of, or in addition to, air conditioning.

Weatherstrip your doors, caulk cracks in the door frames and replace worn or ill-fitting thresholds.

Consider Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs). CFLs use a fraction of the energy of traditional incandescent lightbulbs and last up to ten times longer. Also, CFLs do not release heat like incandescent bulbs. CFLs are available in home improvement stores in the lighting section.

Avoid using appliances such as the washing machine, dryer and dishwasher during peak electric usage times (between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.) Daytime hours have the highest demand for electricity, so wait until the evening hours, when temperatures are lower, to run energy-guzzling appliances.

Purchase energy-efficient products when replacing appliances and heating and cooling equipment. Look for ENERGY STAR® products.

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