

Tips on saving energy and being cool in summer

- **Raise your thermostat to 78°.** This is the number one way to conserve energy. When you are away from home for more than eight hours, raise the thermostat setting and you can expect to see a 1% savings for each degree of setback. This will reduce the amount of energy used to cool your home while you're away.
- **Keep shades closed when the air conditioner is on.** Sunny windows account for 40 percent of unwanted heat and can make your air conditioner work two to three times harder.
- **Check and clean filters.** Cleaning and replacing air conditioning filters monthly allows the system to run more efficiently.
- **Install ceiling fans.** Don't underestimate the importance of ceiling fans. Moving air over the body provides a cooling effect. The use of ceiling fans can mean savings of around 25% on cooling costs and can make the temperature seem 10 degrees cooler.
- **Make sure ceiling fans are blowing down.** Most fans have a switch to change the fan direction. Make sure ceiling fans are blowing downward (in a counter-clockwise direction) to send air past your body.
- **Run appliances with large energy use late in the evening.** Use the dishwasher and clothes washer late in the evening. When used during the day, these appliances produce additional heat, causing your air conditioner to work harder.
- **Use cold water to wash dishes and clothes.** This will save on water heating costs.
- **Unplug equipment not in use.** Electric chargers, televisions and audio/video equipment use electricity and produce heat even when they are not in use. Running an older refrigerator can use up to three times the energy of a modern one. Unplug any appliance when it's not in use.
- **Turn off lights.** Turn lights off when exiting a room. Consider replacing incandescent bulbs with energy efficient compact florescent lights (CFLs). And remember to recycle CFLs whenever possible.