

Save Money on Your Air Conditioning Bill



For most of us in the United States, summer mean high utility bills. A big source of that expense is our air conditioners. In warmer regions it can be up to 75% of our utility expense. Here are some tips for lowering your rates.

- Invest in a programmable timer. That way you don't go to work and leave the a/c blasting all day. Contrary to popular belief, some experts advise turning your a/c off, and turning it back on a half hour before you return. Apparently it will save you money.
- Replace your filter regularly. Write it on your personal calendar or in Outlook so you don't forget.
- Close a vent or two in unused rooms. Don't close all of them or you could cause problems.
- Turn off lights. The bulbs add heat to a room, which causes the a/c to work harder.
- Replace your lights with compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs, which use 75% less energy and create 70-90% less heat at the same time.
- Cook with a slow cooker, microwave or outdoor grill when possible.
- Install ceiling fans.
- Create shade around full-sun windows. Plant trees or buy sun-blocking drapes and blinds. Well-positioned shade trees can cool a room by 20 degrees.

There are many other ways to save money this summer. Visit the website for your utility provider to see what tips they can offer.

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