

Summer

- Set your air conditioner thermostat to 74°F or higher during the summer. Set it to 85°F or higher when you leave your home for more than four hours.
- Use a portable fan or ceiling fan if there is one. Creating air movement in a room can improve the comfort of the space with air conditioner set a couple degrees higher.
- Don't place lamps or TV sets near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, causing the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.
- Keep the window coverings closed during the day to prevent direct solar gain.
- Dress with light clothing and sandals – this moves the 'comfort temperature' up a couple of degrees.

Winter

- Set your thermostat to 65°F when sleeping, and to 60°F when away for more than a couple hours.
- Open window coverings on sunny days to let in the sun's warmth. Close them at night or on cloudy days to keep the cold air out. Use draperies, blinds, curtains or shutters on all windows to slow the loss of heat through the glass.
- Dress with warm, layered clothes, and socks/slippers – this moves the "comfort temperature" a couple of degrees.
- Locate furniture next to inside walls instead of outside walls, and away from drafty windows.

Lighting

- Replace incandescent light bulbs with more efficient lamps (compact fluorescent or LED).
- Turn off lights when they are not being used.

Other

- Turn things off that are not being used.
- Check occasionally to be sure things you think are off are truly off.
- Wash clothes in cold water.
- Change furnace and air conditioner filters regularly.
- Clean refrigerator coils to improve the efficiency of the unit. When coils are dirty, the unit will run, and run, and run.

- Keep air conditioner outdoor unit (condensing unit) coils free from dirt, grass, etc. so it can breathe.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and laundry.
- Set dishwasher to 'economy' mode if it has one; this dries dishes with air vs. electric heater.
- Monitor entry door seals for leakage that will increase heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) cost - draft or light visible at the opening is an indicator.
- Monitor the toilet for a continual 'hissing' sound that indicates the flapper seal needs replacing. This is the #1 cause of high water use in residences.
- If you have your own electric, gas, or water account, monitor usage using the online data portal. For water, increased daily usage can mean a leak. For electricity, look at overnight 'ghost loads' and verify that energy use while you are asleep seems reasonable.