



Easy Tips for Keeping Your Home Cool

A well-maintained air conditioning unit runs efficiently, may use less energy and could cost less to run.

Avoid having your air conditioner work harder than it should, whether you have a whole-house or one-room air conditioner. Use these tips to keep your house cool all season.

Close the curtains and blinds.

The sun's rays are strongest during the summer months and can heat up any room quickly. So, draw curtains and blinds when you can, especially on hot sunny days. Feeling ambitious? Plant a natural shade like a tree or tall shrub in front of windows that receive a lot of sun rays.

Avoid oven-cooking on hot days.

Instead of a heat-generating oven, consider cooking in a microwave or on an outdoor grill.

Check to see if your furnace filter is dirty or clogged.

Your furnace blower motor is used to circulate AC-cooled air through your home. One of the simplest, easiest steps in maintaining your AC is changing your furnace filter on a regular basis. A clogged filter will restrict airflow, reducing your system's efficiency and ability to effectively cool. Change the filter according to the manufacturer's instructions, or more frequently if you have pets or suffer from allergies.

Seal your windows and doors.

Make sure to keep your windows and exterior doors closed while operating your air conditioner. Check for air leakage around the frame and movable joints of your windows, doors and skylights. Look for signs

of damage such as rot, mould and/or staining and note the condition of the glass and weatherstripping. Upgrading to energy efficient windows could reduce the costs of cooling your home.

Open your vents

It's a common misconception that closing vents in the basement or unused rooms will help to save energy. An AC produces the same amount of air whether your vents are opened or closed. Closing vents increases the pressure within the system. This pressure puts extra strain on the fan which can affect its lifespan and may cause it to use more energy. It can also cause the coil to freeze due to inadequate airflow. To ensure the unit operates efficiently, it's better to keep the vents open.

Keep your cooling system running when you are away from the home

Turning off your AC during the day when you are not at home will allow the solid surfaces in your home to heat up through the day. Your cooling system will then have to work overtime to cool these surfaces when it is turned on again, and it will take a properly-sized cooling system a long time to cool the home back down as a result. It is recommended that you set your cooling system to a comfortable temperature and leave it at that set point throughout the cooling season.

To learn more on air conditioners, visit reliancehomecomfort.com/air-conditioning-guide



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