

# SUMMER EFFICIENCY TIPS

→ **Maximize** savings

→ **Lower** energy use

- **Optimize your AC use:**

- Consider a programmable or **smart thermostat** to adjust the temperature automatically when you're away or sleeping. Check with your utility to see if they provide any rebates or incentives.
- Set your thermostat as high as comfortable. According to Energy Star, setting your thermostat to **78°F** in the summer can save **12%** compared to setting it to **74°F**.
- Changing your thermostat by **7-10°F** for eight hours a day can save up to **10%** on heating and cooling costs annually.
- Check and replace your AC filters regularly to maintain efficient airflow.

- **Use fans strategically:**

- Use **ceiling fans** in conjunction with your AC to circulate cool air and raise the thermostat by a few degrees without sacrificing comfort.
- **Turn off fans** when you leave the room. They cool people, not the air temperature.
- Ensure ceiling fans are set to rotate **counter-clockwise** to push cool air down into the room during the summer months.

- **Reduce heat gain:**

- **Close blinds, shades, and drapes** during the day to block direct sunlight and reduce heat entering your home. This will also help your air conditioner work less to cool your home.
- Consider installing awnings over windows or planting trees or shrubs for **natural shade**.
- **Weatherstrip windows and doors** to close any cracks or gaps and seal air leaks in your ductwork to prevent cool air from escaping and warm air from entering.

- **Appliances and lighting:**

- Unplug unused electronics and chargers. They can draw power even when turned off, known as “**phantom load**”.
- Run heat-generating appliances during off-peak hours and limit oven use during the hottest parts of the day. Opt for grilling outdoors, using a microwave, air fryer, or slow cooker to **minimize heat generation** indoors.
- Switch to **LED lighting**, which uses less energy and emits less heat than traditional incandescent bulbs.
- Consider **ENERGY STAR®** certified appliances. They are designed to use less energy and water.

- **Additional tips:**

- **Improve insulation.** This helps maintain comfortable indoor temperatures and reduces energy loss year-round.
- Be aware of **peak power times**. Avoid using energy-draining appliances when energy demand is highest, which often means energy prices are the highest.
- Check with your utility and consider participating in **energy-saving programs**. Some energy providers offer programs like direct load control in exchange for bill credits.
- Monitor your energy and water bills by **tracking usage**. This can help identify areas where you can reduce consumption.