



## Summer Air Conditioner Saving Tips

- Set the thermostat to 78° for air conditioning or to the highest comfortable setting. Higher settings cost less; lower settings cost more. Each degree up or down makes a big difference in cost. Increase the 78° setting by 2° or 3° when you're away on weekdays.
- Your AC won't cool any faster set at 68° than it does at 78°. Set to a lower temperature, it will only cool longer, not faster. Always set the AC thermostat fan selection to "Auto" rather than "On." Set on Auto, humidity is kept lower, costs are lower and comfort is higher. When set to "On," the fan is always on, costs are higher, humidity is higher and comfort is lower.
- Close shades, drapes, and blinds during the day. This blocks the sun's radiant energy.
- Use your ceiling fans. They increase evaporative cooling and increase sensible cooling. Set the air conditioner thermostat a few degrees higher. You'll feel cooler at a higher room temperature, which can save a lot. Raising the thermostat setting 5° reduces your air conditioning costs 15% or more. Turn off fans when you're away. A fan's motor adds a small amount of heat to a room, similar to a small light bulb. The breeze cools your skin, but not the room or the furniture. Only run fans when you're there to feel the breeze.
- Change the air conditioner's air filter monthly during the cooling season. A clogged filter restricts airflow causing your cooling costs to rise. A badly clogged filter can lead to an expensive compressor failure.
- Central air conditioners and heat pumps need preventative maintenance, just like your car. Get a spring checkup! Annual servicing by a qualified heating-and-air technician can reduce your operating costs. Technicians will test for proper coolant charge and clean the coils, which will make your system operate more efficiently.
- Studies have shown that ductwork can have not only multiple leak points, but also major disconnects. Check your ductwork while the system is in operation; you'll feel the leaks. Ask your heating and cooling contractor about duct sealing services. Or if you know where the leaks are, do it yourself using #6 mastic.
- Purchase a programmable thermostat for multiple daily temperature set points.
- Use a microwave oven instead of the range/oven, or cook outdoors. The microwave won't heat up the kitchen.
- Keep heat producers, like lamps or TVs away from your air conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.
- Turn off the lights when you leave a room. Incandescent lights add heat to rooms, causing longer air conditioning operation, which increases costs. Compact fluorescent lights produce less heat, but they should be turned off too.

Learn more at [www.NextZero.org](http://www.NextZero.org) or call the NextZero toll-free hotline at 888-333-7525.