

Helpful Hints on Keeping Your House Cool this Summer.

- The most basic thing you can do to keep your house cooler without air conditioning is to keep as much sunlight out as possible and let cooler air in at night. During the day, keep windows, patio doors, drapes, blinds or shades closed, especially on the southern and western sides of your home.
- Use white or light colored window dressings to reflect light. At night, leave cabinets open as well, as they will store heat.
- It is one thing to keep hot air and sunlight out; it's another to identify the appliances in your home that generate heat. If you aren't at home during the day, it is easier to simply shut off as many electric appliances as possible. If you spend more of your day at home, try to use heat-generating appliances only during the coolest part of the day. For example, use the microwave instead of the stovetop or oven. Or, let your dishes air dry in your dishwasher instead of heat-drying.
- Keeping your electronics on a power strip provides a quick way to "power-down" before leaving for the day.
- Turn off lights when not in use.
- Humidity makes a room hotter. Do laundry early or late in the day. Take showers or baths during the cooler times of day.
- Change the temperature settings on the thermostat when you are home and away. If you aren't at home during the day make the setting 75 and when you return lower to 70. Turning the unit off and on costs more money than changing the settings.

