

It All Adds Up!

By far, the largest portion of your energy dollar during the summer goes toward cooling your home. The exact percentage and monthly cost of cooling your home will vary depending upon the size, efficiency and condition of the equipment used. These costs can also be affected by outside temperature, your thermostat setting and the overall energy efficiency of your home.

In the average home, approximately **55%** of your energy dollar is used for cooling; **20%** for water heating and **25%** for appliances and lighting.



Is there more I can do to keep my electric bill lower during the summer?

.....YES!

Don't stop now. You're just getting started. Other things you can do to reduce the amount of money you spend each month on cooling your home while making your air conditioner run more efficiently include:

Plant trees to shade the west side of your home.



Make certain that your home is adequately insulated.

Caulk and weather-strip around doors, windows and wall joints to reduce air leaks.

Turn lights off when not in use.

Don't run attic or window fans when the air conditioner is on. Use ceiling fans instead. While sitting under a fan, 78 degrees will feel like 70 degrees.

Closing window blinds, drapes and curtains will reduce direct sunlight and keep your home cooler and more comfortable during the summer.

Limit the number of times you open and close outside doors to keep the cool air in and the hot outside air out.

Install awnings over windows exposed to direct sunlight.

It's too hot to sweat over your electric bill



Helpful ideas from **SLECA** that can keep you cool and save you money this summer



Cool your body first... Then your house

You don't have to cool your whole house to stay comfortable. All you have to do is cool your body. That is a lot easier and it doesn't cost as much. Your body is generating heat right now. How well you get rid of that heat in summer has a lot to do with your comfort.

Here are some tips:

Dress cool. Wear loose fitting clothes and open collars. Clothes of open-weave, natural materials like cotton are best.

Keep air moving. A fan, even on a slow speed, will make you more comfortable. And the cost is very, very low.

Keep your doors airtight. If your main door opens to an unheated hallway or directly to the outside, make your door airtight. If this happens in your apartment, caulk between the frame and the wall. Install

a door sweep at the bottom of the door to stop hot drafts from coming in.

Eat lighter; drink a lot of liquids. When it is hot outside, you will probably be more comfortable and have more energy when you eat cooler, lighter foods like salads, fresh vegetables and fruits and drink plenty of fluids.

Downsize those bed linens. In warm weather, get rid of the blanket and sleep under a light cover or sheet.



The really big savings start with your air conditioner

If you don't remember anything else in this brochure remember this. Cooling your home costs more than any other part of your electric bill. Keeping your home cool represents up to 55 percent of your monthly home energy cost. So if you change your thermostat setting so that your home isn't as cool, you can save big money.

Instant energy savings can be achieved at no cost whatsoever by keeping your thermostat on 78 degrees in summer.

In fact, you can lower your electric bill by up to three percent for every degree that the thermo-

stat is raised in summer.

Don't try changing overnight. Instead, try changing the thermostat just a few degrees each week. This way, your body has time to adjust and you will still feel comfortable.

Don't position heat-producing appliances such as lamps and TV sets beneath a wall-mounted thermostat for a central cooling system. Heat rising from these types of appli-

ances could cause the thermostat to read a temperature higher than the true room temperature and lead to overcooling of the entire house.

Close cooling vents and turn off window air conditioners in unused rooms. Keep doors to unused rooms closed.

Direct sunlight falling on your outside air conditioner increases its workload. Shading your air conditioner will cause it to run more efficiently.



Your air conditioner is your best friend in the summer. Take care of it so it will take care of you.

No matter if you have window units or central air conditioning, keeping them in top condition will save you money and keep them operating efficiently for years. Here are some things to check out:

Clean or replace filters

The filter on your air conditioner may be dirty. A dirty filter will use more energy. Filters are cheap. They should be cleaned or replaced monthly during summer.

Clean the coil

Make sure you keep the outside coils free of leaves, grass clippings, sticks and other debris. Clogged coils can cause your air conditioner to work harder and stay on longer.

Fix duct leaks

If you have central air conditioning, check the ducts that carry the air to different parts of your home. Close and seal any leaks you find with duct tape that carries the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) logo.

Check your air conditioner before the weather gets hot

The money you save on your electric bill following routine professional servicing, in most cases, should "pay for" the service within one to two months.

