



801-296-0477



5 Ways To Lower Summer Cooling Costs

We all know electric bills tend to soar in the summer heat, so we're offering a list of ways to lower your electric bill:

1. Be Aware of Thermostat Settings

Cooling costs can account for 50% or more of your summer electric bill. Set your thermostat at 78 degrees instead of 72 degrees; this can cut a \$100 electric bill by 25%. Installing a programmable thermostat can keep your house at optimal comfort levels and help lower utility bills.

2. Keep Your Outdoor Unit Clean

Grass clippings, leaves and other airflow restrictions around your outdoor unit can cause it to work harder, and use more electricity.

3. Block Out Sun

Bright sunlight can increase cooling costs by up to 30%. Keep blinds closed to block out 70% of the heat and 99% of harmful UV rays.

4. Change Your Air Filter

A clean air filter allows maximum air flow to be delivered; this improves overall efficiency of the unit and helps prevent coil ice-ups.

5. Consider a New System

If your current system is more than 10 years old, chances are it has a 10 SEER or lower rating. Depending on your usage, it may not take long for a new, high-efficiency unit to pay for itself with energy savings.

We have lots of tips to help chase away the summer heat. Call us today at **801-296-0477** to take advantage of our home cooling expertise.

Summer-Proof Your A/C

As summer arrives, it's time to set the thermostat switch to cool. After lying dormant all winter, is your air conditioner ready for near-constant use? Don't wait until it breaks down on a hot summer day to check for problems. A thorough summer tune-up will troubleshoot problems before they occur, and leave you with lowered electric bills, a more comfortable home and most importantly, peace of mind.

Regular maintenance greatly extends the life of your cooling system and prevents you from having to buy expensive replacements. The older your equipment gets, the more important a comprehensive tune-up becomes. A small investment in regular seasonal tune-ups can mean big savings in the future.

Don't put it off! Call **High Country HVAC** to schedule your summer tune-up, and look forward to a cool and worry-free summer of comfort.

High Country HVAC

"Raising Your Home Comfort to New HEIGHTS"



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SAVE ON AN A/C TUNE-UP

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TROUBLESHOOT BEFORE YOU CALL

If your system has quit running, ask yourself these simple questions before you call:

- Is the selector switch set to heat or cool?
- Is the temperature set 3 degrees below room temperature?
- Does your thermostat use batteries? If so, change them.
- Does the fan start when you switch from "on" to "off" and back to "on"?
- Has your breaker box tripped?
- Is the air filter clean?
- Are the return air grilles blocked or dirty?
- Are the supply air grilles open?
- Is the air flow blocked around the outdoor unit?

After troubleshooting with the above questions in mind and the problems still exist, give us a call. We'll be on our way!

High Country HVAC 801-296-0477



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Four Challenges To Indoor Comfort

The first thing we think about when it comes to indoor comfort is probably the temperature. But when you consider factors like humidity and air quality, the scope of what it takes to achieve comfort becomes much broader.

1. Temperature: A room's temperature is in a constant struggle. Bright sunlight coming through a window adds heat. Cracks in window or door seals allow cool air to escape. Even your body heat can affect a room's temperature. So

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temperature is by far the most influential to your comfort. And it's the only factor that most conventional thermostats let you control.

2. Humidity: Humid air feels heavy and sticky, both of which add to the discomfort you feel on a hot day. If you're in a cool room that isn't properly dehumidified, you'll actually feel less cool than if you were in a room with drier air that has the thermostat set a few degrees warmer. In summer, proper humidity levels not only optimize comfort, but also help you use less energy.

3. Air quality: Airborne impurities can make any home feel uncomfortable. The three main offenders to indoor air quality are:

- **Particles** — dust, dirt, pet dander and allergens, such as pollen
- **Mold, Mildew and Germs** — tiny organisms that thrive in damp environments and greatly exacerbate allergies and asthma
- **Chemical Vapors and Odors** — generated by cleaning products, paint and other chemicals found in most homes.

Filtration can help lessen the effect of some of these pollutants, but there are air cleaning systems available that offer an extra layer of protection to enhance the cleanliness and comfort of your air.

4. Control: The ability to control the above three comfort challenges is pretty important. Having the right home heating and air conditioning system — controlled by the proper thermostat — will let you create and preserve your perfect indoor space. ■

Question & Answer



Don't resort to extreme measures to keep cool. We're just a phone call away.

How can I tell if my air conditioner needs repairs?

The last thing we want to have happen is for you to arrive home to find your air conditioner has stopped working. Here are some signs of trouble that mean it's time for repair service.

A decrease in your system's cooling output is one of the most obvious signs there is something wrong. If you feel as though your system is struggling to cool your entire home effectively or seems to be blowing lukewarm air, refrigerant leaks or issues with blower fans and other problems could be to blame.

Ice on an air conditioner is another sign it's in need of repair. Most icing problems have to do with the evaporator coil, but ice can also form due to a faulty fan, debris that restricts air entering the outside unit, or if refrigerant is low.

Strange sounds coming from your air conditioning system during operation are also cause for concern. You shouldn't be hearing loud grinding, screeching or booming sounds. If you do, it's best to have us evaluate it for repairs ASAP. ■



Let us make sure your home cooling system is ready when you're ready to head indoors.

Clean Air Filters Are A Must!

Changing your air filter may not sound like that big a deal, but we can assure you that failure to do so will negatively impact your home cooling experience. If your heating and cooling systems share an air handler, the filter might get changed twice a year, but that's still not enough. Check your filter every month during heavy use months, and at a minimum, change it every 3 months. Your personal use will determine how frequently your air filter will have to be changed, but only once or twice a year won't do it.

If an air filter isn't changed regularly, it can become clogged. When this happens, you may find your system is struggling to distribute cooled air throughout your home. This struggle will lead to increased energy costs, even as your system is declining in its overall performance quality. Your indoor air quality may suffer as well, and you risk allowing your evaporator coil to ice over, due to decreased airflow. ■



A clean air filter prevents dust and dirt from building up in your system. Buildup could lead to early system failure.

Tip

An indoor humidity level below 60% is recommended for the summer months. Anything higher will make you feel too warm.



HOME COMFORT SYSTEMS

Higher Level Of Comfort

The Elite® Series XC16 air conditioner provides ideal home comfort. That's because the XC16 is equipped with two levels of cooling that achieve a higher level of efficiency and comfort. So even when you're just relaxing indoors, your home remains the most comfortable place to be.

With its two-stage design, the XC16 distinguishes between mild and extremely hot days, using only the energy necessary to keep you comfortable. By mostly running at low stage, not only is it quieter, it also avoids temperature swings, which reduce energy usage, as well as your monthly utility bills.

The XC16's efficiency ratings of up to 17.00 SEER can save you hundreds of energy dollars each year, compared to older or conventional units. And its high-quality components assure a high level of reliability, even in the harshest outdoor conditions. Please contact us for more details on this and the full line of high-efficiency equipment we install. ■



The XC16 air conditioner uses the chlorine-free R-410A refrigerant, which meets the U.S. EPA's most stringent environmental guidelines.

Earth & Atmosphere

Flash. Boom.

Lightning is nature's light show — more dramatic than the most exuberant fireworks display. A single bolt of lightning is five times hotter than the surface of the Sun and can discharge an awe-inspiring amount of electrical energy, in many cases up to 100 million volts.

Electrically charged storms give birth to lightning. Storm clouds have a positive molecular charge at the top of the cloud and a negative charge at the bottom. Lightning occurs when electricity travels between these positive and negative charges. And it can travel from cloud to Earth when the negative charge at the bottom of the cloud makes contact with the positive charge of the ground.

In many parts of the country, summer conditions are ripe for the formation of electrical storm clouds, making it the most dangerous season for lightning strikes. The best way to stay safe during a thunderstorm is to stay indoors. But if you're caught outside, stay away from trees, poles and metal objects. Remember, never underestimate this dangerous force of nature. ■



Flashes that don't strike the ground are called cloud flashes. There are 5 to 10 times more cloud flashes than ground strikes.