

AC Tips

1. Followings are the tips for AC maintenance:

- Avoid locating your air conditioner in direct sunlight-particularly on the south side of your home-where it will be forced to work much harder to do its job.
- Have your system checked Yearly!
- Keep leaves , grass, and storage at least 2 feet away from outside unit.
- Clean outside coil with water monthly.
- Help your air conditioner "breathe easier." Clean or replace the filter at least once a month this summer. A filter clogged with dust, pollen or soot "smothers" the air conditioner and wastes energy and your money. Let your monthly electric bill be your regular reminder to clean or change the filter.
- When the "A/C' is on, shut off kitchen, bath and other ventilating fans as soon as they've done their job. In just one hour, these fans can blow away a houseful of costly, cooled air.
- Annual service of your air conditioning equipment by a qualified service technician can reduce operating costs as much as 20%, extend the life of the system, and improve safety and air quality.
- Remember that air conditioning systems that are ten years old or more are most likely not operating at peak efficiency. Installation of a high efficiency system can often cut your electric bill by 50% or more, and will more than pay for itself over the next few years
- In light of current energy concerns and to make the most efficient use of your utility dollars, establish your comfort temperature, Set your thermostat and Forget you have one. It takes less energy to cool air 4-5 degrees than it does to cool air 8-10 degrees.
- Before you call for a emergency service tech to come and fix your system. We recommend trying these 3 tips:
 - Check the thermostat to verify that it is calling for cooling.
 - Check your breaker box to verify if the breaker is on.
 - Check outdoor fuses or disconnect.

2. Following are the tips for AC maintenance:

- Set your thermostat at 78°F or higher. Each degree setting below 78°F will increase your energy consumption by approximately 8%.
- Use bath and kitchen fans sparingly when the air conditioner is operating.
- Inspect and clean both the indoor and outdoor coils. The indoor coil in your air conditioner acts as a magnet for dust because it is constantly wetted during the cooling season. Dirt build-up on the indoor coil is the single most common cause of poor efficiency. The outdoor coil must also be checked periodically for dirt build-up and cleaned if necessary.
- Check the refrigerant charge. The circulating fluid in your air conditioner is a special refrigerant gas that is put in when the system is installed. If the system is overcharged or undercharged with refrigerant, it will not work properly. You may need a service contractor to check the fluid and adjust it appropriately.
- Reduce the cooling load by using cost-effective conservation measures. For example, effectively shade east and west windows. When possible, delay heat-generating activities, such as dishwashing, until the evening on hot days.
- Over most of the cooling season, keep the house closed tight during the day. Don't let in unwanted heat and humidity. If practical, ventilate at night either naturally or with fans.

- Try not to use a dehumidifier at the same time your air conditioner is operating. The dehumidifier will increase the cooling load and force the air conditioner to work harder.

3. Following are the tips for AC maintenance:

- Pay attention to your thermostat settings. Air conditioning thermostats should be set no lower than 78° F; each degree you raise your temperature setting can save on air conditioning costs. To achieve similar savings when heating, 68° F is the recommended temperature.
- Install programmable thermostats or timers to give you better control when the heat or air conditioning is on. Programmable thermostats also will help you control the temperature you want to maintain.
- On hot days, close the door and draw the curtains and/or shades to keep the sun out. During the heating season, take these same steps at night and during unoccupied periods to help your building retain heat.
- Weatherize your building by installing awnings, solar window shade screens or sun-control window film, and applying a heat-blocking coating to your roof.
- Perform regular maintenance to keep your heating and air conditioning systems running more efficiently.

References:

http://www.aaaindoorairquality.com/ac_tips.html

<http://www.metroenergysavers.com/tipsairconditioning.asp>

http://www.sdge.com/business/ee_tips.shtml