

Aquariums: Keep aquariums covered to reduce the amount of moisture escaping. Elevated humidity levels in the home increase human discomfort.

Laundry: If your clothes dryer is located in a utility room within the air conditioned space of your home and the utility room has an operational window, then close off the room from the rest of the house and partially open the window when running loads. Run full loads and, if you can utilize a clothesline on sunny days, take advantage of the free solar energy instead of running the dryer. Check your dryer vent pipe for lint build up which will cause the dryer to run longer.

Swimming Pool: The pool pump should be controlled by a time clock so that it has less chance of running more than necessary. In most cases during the summer, eight hours per day is adequate.

Hot Water: Turn off the water heater if you will be away from home for two or more days. The thermostat should be set between 120 and 140 degrees. The lower the setting, the more energy it will save.

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Low-cost and
No-cost Ways
to Save
Energy This
Summer



Published May 2008 by the
Member & Public Relations Department





Welcome to summer in Florida!

It's sunny, it's hot, and your home energy consumption is likely on the rise. That makes it the perfect time to consider some small steps you can take with little to no expense to trim back energy use.

Around the house...

Lighting: Fluorescent lights are ideal for use in place of incandescent lights that are used frequently (more than about 3 hours a day). But, whether you use fluorescent lights or not, remember to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms.



Windows: Keep windows closed while using air conditioning. Also keep curtains closed during hours when the sun shines in those windows. If you have venetian blinds, adjust them to reflect the sun's rays outward.

When you think a day is cool enough to consider opening windows to cool down the house, do so only when the outside humidity is less than 55% and the dew point is at 60 degrees or less. Otherwise, the house will absorb humidity from outside air, become uncomfortable, and defeat the purpose for opening the windows.

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC): the largest electricity consumer in the house

Basic maintenance will go a long way to enhance the system's efficiency and prolong the life of the HVAC unit. Clean filters monthly and replace when needed. A dirty filter restricts airflow causing the unit to lose efficiency. Throughout the house, it's important to keep all air supply registers to all rooms open and the return air pathways free from obstructions (furniture). Also, doors should be kept open to any room that has a supply air register but no return air vent within the room.

Outside, it is wise to keep plants and other obstructions at least three feet away from the outside unit to prevent interference with air circulation.

Temperature settings play a significant role in a home's energy consumption. For each degree you set the thermostat over 78 degrees, you will see up to a 4% savings per degree. With this thought in mind, consider raising the thermostat a few degrees and using a ceiling fan during sleeping hours. Also, raising the thermostat by five degrees when away from home can

generate a savings. While you can adjust the settings manually, you might also consider

installing an electronic programmable thermostat to manage your temperature



setting throughout the day and night. Many of these are suitable for the do-it-yourselfer to easily install.

Fanning up more savings...

Fans: Bathroom exhaust fans play an important role in increasing the comfort of your home and should run for approximately 20 minutes to effectively remove excess humidity from the area. To operate most efficiently, if there is an operational window in the bathroom, open the window slightly while the fan is running so that less cool conditioned air is pulled from the rest of the house. Do not run the fan longer than about 20 minutes and remember to close the window when you turn off the fan.

When cooking, kitchen exhaust fans should run for approximately 20 minutes to effectively remove the extra humidity added to the room.

Ceiling fans can help save energy when they are used in conjunction with raising the cooling temperature settings a few degrees. Ceiling fans, however, should only be in use when the room is occupied.

More ways to save

Computers: When not being actively used, turning off the computer is most economical, however; if the computer must be left on, turning off the monitor will cut the electric consumption in half.

Fireplace/Wood burning stove: Check to make sure the damper is closed and keep stove doors closed.