

# *Heating, Ventilation & Air-Conditioning Tips*

## Heating Tips

Having an annual maintenance performed on your furnace by a licensed technician will help ensure it operates at its optimum efficiency and improve safety. Therefore, chances of breakdowns and troubleshooting are reduced. Your heating equipment such as Furnace, Fire place and water heater last long with less consumption of natural gas and electricity as a result.

Keep your supply and return air vents free of objects like blinds, carpets or furniture so your furnace can operate efficiently and there is even heat distribution.

Install ceiling fans and change the direction of airflow on your ceiling fans. In the winter, the blades should operate in a clockwise direction helping to push the warm air from the ceiling down into the room.

Close vents in less-used rooms. By closing the vents, you do not spend money cooling rooms that are rarely used.

Clean or replace furnace filters according to the manufacturer's/contractor's instructions.

Use your fireplace wisely. If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue as it acts like an open window if not properly closed. If you use your fireplace intermittently, ensure the fireplace's flue is closed when not in use.

## Cooling Tips

Having an annual maintenance performed on your air conditioner by a licensed technician will help ensure it operates at its peak efficiency and catches any potential breakdowns before they occur. Therefore, your equipment operates at its optimum efficiency and lasts long with less consumption of electricity as a result.

Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer. The less difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your electricity consumption.

A programmable thermostat enables you to control your home temperature as per your desire. For every 1°C you higher your thermostat for seven hours per day, you save one per cent on your cooling bill.

Install ceiling fans and change the direction of airflow on your ceiling fans. In the winter, the blades should operate in a counter-clockwise direction helping to pull the cold air from the floor to provide an even temperature.

Close vents in less used rooms. By closing the vents, you do not be spending money cooling rooms that are rarely used.

Do not place lamps or other appliances near your thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary. Thermostat should not be installed close to Kitchen also.

Plant trees or shrubs to shade air-conditioning unit but do not block the airflow of your outside unit. A unit operating in the shade uses as much as 10%-15% less electricity than the same one operating in the direct sun light.

When you turn on your air conditioner, do not set your thermostat at a colder setting than normal required. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in unnecessary cooling. Therefore, higher bills.

Proper sizing, calculation of heat loss and professional installation are key elements to achieve an optimum level of efficiency from your unit. Too large a unit will not adequately remove humidity. Too small a unit will not be able to maintain a comfortable temperature on the hottest days. Improper unit location, improper duct sealing, and incorrect refrigerant charge can greatly reduce overall efficiency.

Look for a unit with quiet operation.

Use bath and kitchen fans sparingly when the air conditioner is operating to avoid pulling warm and moist air into your home.

Keep the house closed tight during the day. Do not let in unwanted heat and humidity.

Use e-mail instead of faxing documents.

Turn off all office equipment and lights every night and weekend. If you cannot turn off the whole computer, turn off the monitor and the printer.

If appropriate, use laptop computers and inkjet printers. They consume 90 percent less energy than typical desktop computers.

Caulk windows, doors and anywhere air leaks out.

Clean or replace furnace filters according to the manufacturer's/contractor's instructions.

Close all basement vent registers in summer to avoid short cycling and increase the air flow.

## Laundry Tips

Clean the lint trap in your clothes dryer before every load of laundry for added drying efficiency

Use one of ENERGY STAR® water-efficient front load washing machines. Front loading clothes washers use about 35-40 % less water per load and 50% less energy than top loading models.

It means you will use the machine less and save time, energy and water

Select a laundry detergent that is chemically formulated for cold water temperatures. Using cold water reduces the consumption of energy required for hot water.

### Can a Dryer Vent be a Fire Hazard in my Home?

Yes, certain types of vents can be fire hazards. A clogged dryer vent will surely cause a dryer to run hotter and increase the chance to catch fire. Dryer lint can accumulate at the outdoor hood bird screen, down the length of the duct, at duct fittings and at the dryer lint screen itself. Dryer venting systems can also become clogged if the dryer hose is crimped behind the dryer or the dryer duct is crushed or otherwise damaged during installation. Regular inspections and cleaning of your dryer vent can prevent lint build-up and keep the dryer running as effectively and efficiently as possible. Therefore the chances to catch a fire are reduced.