

## Home Cooling Tips



Keeping our homes comfortable in the summer months is nearly as important as in the winter. Although Minnesota historically averages about 12 days a year of

90-degree or warmer weather, there have been increasing numbers of hot days and a significant number of days with high heat index numbers. As these extreme weather events continue, the health and safety issues for the elderly, the very young, and ill people make home cooling more important—and an increasing part of home energy costs.

### Keeping the heat out

The same strategies that keep our homes warm in the winter work to keep heat out in the summer:

- **Insulation.** Adequate insulation in the attic and walls greatly reduces the flow of heat into your home in the summer.
- **Air-sealing.** Whether your home has gaps around vents in the attic or poor weather-stripping of doors and windows, reducing the flow of air into your house will also reduce the heat transfer.
- **Close windows and doors.** Whenever it is warmer outside than inside, close all windows and doors and latch them tightly to reduce heat gain.

### Reduce indoor heat

Many of our daily activities produce heat or moisture inside our homes. A few changes can reduce the temperature and humidity levels, adding to comfort and saving on air conditioning:

- **Reschedule.** Plan to use appliances such as ovens, clothes dryers, and dishwashers in the evening, when it is cooler. These devices can give off a lot of heat into the house when they operate, adding to the cooling load and potentially decreasing comfort.

### Turn it off

Make sure that any unneeded devices or lighting (especially incandescent!) are turned off or unplugged. Computers, TVs, gaming devices—anything that uses electricity—adds heat to your home.

- **Properly ventilate.** When cooking or bathing, use exhaust fans to quickly remove heat and moisture.
- **Let in cooler air.** During the cool evenings, a window open on a lower level will draw cool air in; an open window higher will allow heated air to escape.

\* This practice should only be followed if you are not using air conditioning systems. Studies have shown that it actually uses less energy to set the thermostat to a certain temperature and keep the air conditioning system on rather than shutting it off and opening windows. This is due to the dehumidification that an air conditioning system provides.

[www.centennialutilities.com](http://www.centennialutilities.com)

#### Utilities Office

200 Civic Heights Circle  
Circle Pines, MN 55014

Phone: 763-784-6751 TDD: 763-231-2617

**Emergency after hours:  
911 or 763-427-1212  
(ask for Centennial Utilities)**

#### Commission Members

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## Leaky Toilets Can Be Silent Wasters of Water

from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
([www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us))

The average U.S. household wastes more than 10,000 gallons of water a year through leaks. Common types of household leaks include worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. All are easily correctable.

One way to check for leaks: Examine your winter water usage. It's likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if its winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons per month.

Toilets are especially leak-prone: the EPA estimates that 20 percent of all toilets leak. But because leaking toilets are often silent, the problem can go unnoticed while your home is "robbed" of up to 300 gallons or more of water a day. Put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. Wait 15-20 minutes and see if color appears in the bowl. If so, you have a leak.

Learn more about finding and fixing leaks and conserving water on the MPCA Conserving water webpage and the EPA WaterSense web page.



## Call Before You Dig

Report any planned excavation in your yard by contacting Gopher State One Call at [gopherstateonecall.org](http://gopherstateonecall.org) or by calling 811. It's the law to use this free service to notify GSOC at least two days before you dig so that all utilities are marked.

Some utilities are just inches below the surface and striking them can cause property damage, injuries or death.



**Centennial  
Utilities will  
be closed  
Monday,  
September 2  
for the Labor  
Day holiday.**

## Billing Notes

Manage your bill at  
**XpressBillPay.com**

To make a payment by  
phone, call Xpress Bill  
Pay at  
1-833-543-9098.

*If you have questions  
about your bill, please  
contact Centennial Util-  
ities at 763-784-6751  
or by email at [utilities@  
ci.circle-pines.mn.us](mailto:utilities@ci.circle-pines.mn.us).*