



## 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.

Keeping yard waste out of the street can help control the amount of pollution in our lakes and streams.

Grass clippings and leaves that end up in the street can travel and eventually end up downstream, and along the way, this debris can also clog storm sewers.

While mowing or raking yards or blowing leaves, please take care to not allow grass clippings or leaves in the street.



**Centennial Utilities will be closed Monday, September 1 for the Labor Day holiday.**



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

**xpress** BILL PAY

**IT'S EASY...**

Manage your account and pay your utility bill online.

Visit [www.centennialutilities.com](http://www.centennialutilities.com), Home page, left side. Click on XPRESSBILLPAY to get started.

### Commission Members

Commission meets on Tuesday, August 26 at 5 p.m.

Jan Kreminski, Chair  
Dwight Benoy  
Curt Theis  
Eric Peterson  
Brian Olson

#### 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)

# 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.

