

Use Less Energy with Air Conditioning Alternatives

from Energysaver.gov Energy Saver Guide



Although air conditioning is often used for home cooling, there are many alternatives that provide cooling with less energy use. A combination of proper insulation, energy-efficient windows and doors,

daylighting, shading, fans, and ventilation can often keep homes cool with a minimum of energy use in all but the hottest climates.

Air conditioner options include room air conditioners, ductless mini-split or multi-split air conditioners, and central air conditioning. Look for ENERGY STAR certified air conditioners. Purchase an air conditioner that is sized correctly for your home or space that needs to be cooled; an oversized air conditioner performs less efficiently and effectively than a smaller, properly sized unit. Work with your contractor to determine the correct size for a central air conditioner.

Fans can help provide home cooling and comfort. Ceiling fans cool by creating a wind chill effect and can allow you to turn up the thermostat about 4°F. In summer, use the ceiling fan in a counterclockwise direction to create a wind chill effect; turn off the fan when you aren't in the room. In winter, reverse the fan to run clockwise and force warm air down from the ceiling.

Whole-house fans pull cool air through the house and exhaust warm air through the attic. Use the fan during cooler times of the day to most effectively cool down your house.

The following cooling tips can also help reduce overall energy costs during the summer:

- Set your thermostat as high as is comfortable when you're home and awake in the summer, and raise the temperature when you're sleeping or away from home.
- Clean or replace filters on air conditioners once a month or as recommended.
- Except for fans that are designed for continuous operation, turn off kitchen, bath, and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.
- Turn off ceiling fans when you leave a room.
- Set the fan switch on your thermostat to "Auto" unless an indoor air quality professional has set up your system to operate continuously for health reasons.
- During summer, keep the window coverings closed during the day to block the sun's heat.



www.centennialutilities.com

Utilities Office

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

Utility Commission Members

Commission meets on the Fourth Tuesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.

Jan Kreminski, Chair
248 Pine Hollow Dr.

Dwight Benoy
66 W. Golden Lake Rd.

Curt Theis
67 West Rd.

Eric Peterson
41 W. Golden Lake Rd.

Brian Olson
227 Galaxy Dr.

Old Gas Appliance Connectors Should be Inspected, Replaced

If you have an older gas appliance, take a moment to check the connectors linking the appliance to the gas line.

If your appliance has a brass connector, whether bare or plastic coated, and is more than 25 years old, you should replace it. If a replacement is needed, make sure the new connector is stainless steel and certified by an accepted approval agency such as CSA International or International Approval Services. It's best to have a qualified professional handle the inspection and replacement.

Manufacturer's guidelines and national standards also require connectors to be replaced whenever gas appliances are moved to a new location or a new one is installed.



Use These Tips to Help Maintain Healthy Shrubs and Trees

from extension.umn.edu

Select drought-tolerant shrubs:

sumac, alpine currant, buffaloberry, spiraea, ninebark, potentilla, smoke bush, gray dogwood, common bearberry, black chokeberry, forsythia, junipers.

Select drought-tolerant trees:

amur corktree, ginkgo, hackberry, Kentucky coffeetree, honeylocust, tree lilac, bur oak, American bayberry.

Newly planted shrubs and trees require regular watering until they are established. Apply water to the root ball once a week. Water established shrubs and trees when the top 6 to 9 inches of soil dry out.



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.

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 Utilities at 763-784-6751 or by email at utilities@ci.circle-pines.mn.us.