



Comfort Guy Inc.

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Your Custom Comfort System Specialist

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## Cooling Tips

**Purchase an efficient cooling system.** If you are thinking about purchasing a new cooling system, look for ENERGY STAR models. These are the most energy efficient models on the market and will save energy, save money, and help the environment. The higher the SEER rating the more energy efficient the system is.

**Can't cool down any faster.** Your house won't cool down any faster if you lower the thermostat setting. When your cooling system is on it runs at the same rate regardless of the temperature setting.

**Keep doors closed.** Shut the door or at least try to minimize the number of times that doors to the outside are opened and closed. Each time you open the door hot air enters the house. If you have an evaporative cooler you must slightly open doors or windows in the areas you would like to cool.

**Use compact fluorescent bulbs.** Not only do these bulbs use at least 2/3 less energy but they generate 70% less heat.

**Seal ducts properly.** Leaks develop in all air ducts over time. Sealing these leaks in ducts can reduce cooling costs by up to 20% with reductions of 10% extremely common!

**Take advantage of shade from the sun.** Close shades on the eastern and western windows during the day. Plant deciduous trees on the eastern and western sides of your house. These trees will provide shade in the summer but because they lose their leaves in the winter will allow the sun to shine through and help heat your home.

**Distribute the cool air evenly.** When considering a new system check out a variable-speed system. This type of system will help spread the cool more evenly and as an added bonus is quieter.

**Turn off the pilot light.** If your heating system has a pilot light, turn it off during the summer. A pilot light typically costs \$3-\$5 per month to keep lit so why not turn it off when you aren't using it. If your furnace still has a pilot light you should consider upgrading to a new system.

**Tune up your cooling system.** Have your cooling system tuned and inspected by a service professional. Losses from a poorly maintained system accumulate over time - sometimes at a rate of 1-2% each year.

**Insulate properly.** Make sure that your wall and attic are properly insulated. Adding batts of fiberglass insulation in your attic is one of the most cost effective savings measures and one that you can do yourself. If your ducts are in the attic make sure they are insulated too.

**Raise your thermostat.** Raising the thermostat by as little as 1°F typically reduces your cooling bill 1-8%. Most energy experts recommend setting the thermostat to 76°F or higher. With cooling it is better not to set your thermostat to a significantly warmer setting while you are gone during the day. You will use less energy maintaining a constant temperature than you will trying to catch up if you have set your temperature too high.

**Single pane windows can be a real pain.** Not only are they inefficient, but worn and dirty windows can be unsightly as well. Replacing them with energy-efficient windows is a major investment, but in warmer climates the savings can be considerable.

**Caulk.** Caulk windows and doors to prevent drafts. This is just more hot air that you will need to cool.

**Insulate outlets.** Electric outlets let hot air into the house. Remove the outlet covers and insert special insulation underneath. Use special insulating plugs in all outlets that are not being used.

**Purchase an efficient tank less hot water heater.** If you are thinking about purchasing a new water heater, look for tank less models. These are on-demand hot water heat systems. These systems only heat the water when you are using hot water. You don't pay to keep an entire 30, 40, or 50 gallon tank of water hot when you don't need to. The heat from that hot water will not need to be cooled.