

Keeping Cool and Conserving Energy

NEIGHBORS
C · A · R · E

Tips for our residents

- ✿ Report any problems with your air conditioning promptly to management.
- ✿ If you should experience a problem with your air conditioner, we will make a diligent effort to repair it as soon as possible after you report the problem. Keep in mind that during these high-use times, we may experience unavoidable delays in obtaining necessary parts, or securing the services of skilled technicians.
- ✿ If you are concerned about the health and safety of one of your neighbors during a heat wave, check on that neighbor regularly and report any of your concerns to the proper authorities.
- ✿ Your health is more important than your electric bill. Public Utility Commission rules prohibit electric companies from disconnecting electrical service during excessive heat alerts. Most utilities will arrange partial payments, bill extensions or balanced billing to avoid disconnections. Contact your electricity company for more information about its programs or policies.
- ✿ When you are gone from home for more than one hour, turn up the thermostat to 85 degrees to lessen air conditioning use. Most home air conditioners can cool your home to agreeable temperatures in about 10 to 15 minutes. Don't turn the thermostat off. Heat will build up in your home and it may take many hours to remove it and make the home comfortable again.
- ✿ While you're at home, set your thermostat to about 78 degrees, or the highest comfortable setting. Each degree cooler could add 7-to-10 percent to your cooling costs. Each degree you raise your thermostat reduces energy consumption by 3-to-4 percent. The best results are achieved by setting the thermostat between 76 and 80 degrees during the hot part of the day, and 76-to-78 during evening hours.
- ✿ With a properly functioning air conditioner, the indoor room temperature should average about 20 degrees below the outdoor ambient temperature, depending on other factors like the insulation, windows, ceiling height and other elements. This means that during 100-degree days, the indoor temperature will most likely be between 75-80 degrees.
- ✿ Don't set your thermostat on an extremely low setting to try to cool your home more quickly. Turning the thermostat below 70 degrees may cause the evaporator coil to "freeze up," and it may take several hours to defrost and function properly again. In the meantime, heat will build up inside your home.
- ✿ About 40 percent of the unwanted heat in your home comes in through windows. Close blinds, curtains or other window coverings to keep the heat out.
- ✿ When possible, use household appliances and take care of your hot work (laundry, baking, cooking) in the morning or late evening. Washers, dryers, ovens, stoves and dishwashers generate heat as well as use large amounts of electricity. If available, consider using a microwave oven to reduce generated heat and save energy.

*Energy and conservation tips obtained from the Texas Public Utility Commission,
the Texas Air Conditioning Contractors Association and Century A/C Supply in Houston.*

