



ENERGY STAR® Helps America Keep Cool This Summer Cooling Solutions that Save Energy, Money, and Protect the Environment

Homeowners across the nation have been challenged by ENERGY STAR, a program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and supported by the Department of Energy, to make smart cooling choices at home this summer, use energy more efficiently, and help reduce air pollution.

Working closely with businesses and utilities, ENERGY STAR launched a consumer-education campaign, called Cool Change, which will run from April to August. This campaign raises American's awareness of their cooling system – encouraging homeowners to use energy-efficient equipment, tightly seal their ducts, properly maintain their cooling system, and have a well-sealed and insulated home.

According to the EPA, Americans spend as much as half of their energy bills to cool and heat their homes throughout the year. To make it easy for consumers to make a Cool Change this summer, ENERGY STAR's partners are offering incentives, such as rebates and sales. For a complete list of special deals, visit www.energystar.gov/coolchange.

"ENERGY STAR is a great way for each of us to make a change – one that will protect the environment, save money, and achieve energy efficiency," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "I encourage all Americans to follow our recommendations for energy efficiency and join our campaign for change."

The EPA estimates that if just one household in 10 participated in Cool Change and used ENERGY STAR labeled heating and cooling products, the change would reduce electricity production enough to keep 17 billion pounds of pollution out of the air this year.

To help consumers identify easy ways to avoid energy-waste this summer, the EPA released the following tips:

- ❑ **Out with the old, in with the new.** If your central air conditioning equipment is more than 10 years old, it is probably time for a replacement – new cooling equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR label can keep you just as or more comfortable, while using 25 to 40 percent less energy than 10-year-old models. Replacing old ceiling fans and dehumidifiers with new ENERGY STAR labeled models can also help to lower your energy bills and keep your home comfortable.
- ❑ **Seal it up.** Seal your ducts to distribute cool air where it needs to go and improve the indoor air quality of your home. Keep the cool air in by adding insulation to your home, weather-stripping and caulking, and choosing ENERGY STAR labeled windows when replacing old windows.
- ❑ **Make a smart purchase.** When replacing central and room air conditioning equipment, make sure it is properly sized and installed. Bigger is not always better, and equipment that is too large can lead to high energy costs and reduced comfort.

- ❑ **Find problems before they occur.** If your cooling equipment needs frequent repairs and your bills are increasing, it could mean your equipment is becoming less efficient. ENERGY STAR recommends having an annual maintenance check-up by a certified professional.
- ❑ **Put your home to the test.** Find out how you can make energy-efficient improvements to your home with the Home Improvement Toolbox. Visit www.energystar.gov and click on “Put your home to the test.”

ENERGY STAR, the nation’s symbol for energy efficiency, enables consumers to easily identify energy-efficient appliances, electronics, office equipment, lighting, heating and cooling equipment, buildings, and even new homes. For more information about ENERGY STAR and the Cool Change consumer-education campaign, visit www.energystar.gov/coolchange or call 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937).

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