

MONEY SAVING IDEAS



Tips To Keep Air Conditioning Bills Low

(NAPS)—Having an air conditioner that runs at peak performance can help keep consumers from feeling the heat—from both the sun and sky-high energy bills.

However, it's a good idea to make sure the air conditioning is in good working order *before* the temperature starts to climb. For optimum service, consider these tips from North American Technician Excellence (NATE):

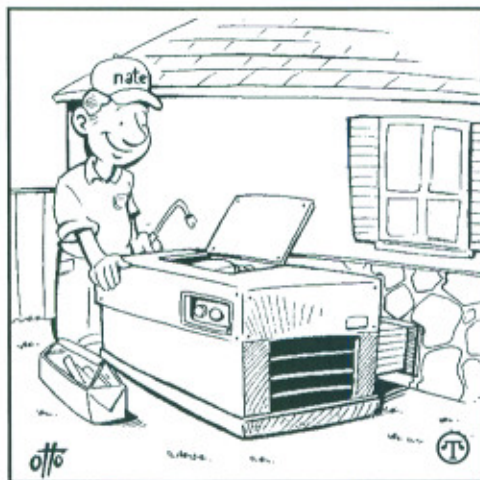
- **Check cooling system annually**—Your cooling system should be checked annually by a NATE-certified technician to make sure that it is running at peak performance. The best time to check it is in the spring.

- **Listen to your air conditioner**—Listening closely to the air conditioner while it's running may help you keep the unit running efficiently. Make sure you hear the fans operating. Does it sound like the unit is turning off too quickly? Or does it sound like the unit never stops running? In any of these cases, it's probably time to have a technician inspect the unit.

- **Raise the temperature setting by five degrees**—Cooling your house to 72 degrees will cost more compared to 77 degrees. If no one is home during the day, save money by moving the thermostat up five or six degrees. For every degree you raise the thermostat, you have a cost savings of about five percent.

- **Don't obstruct airflow to outside unit**—It is recommended to plant shrubs or other landscaping about three feet away from the outside unit to assure proper airflow. Restricting the airflow makes the unit operate at a higher temperature and run less efficiently.

- **Seal your house for maximum comfort and cost efficiency**—Most people think of



A certified technician can help make sure your air conditioner is running efficiently.

thermal insulation, weather stripping and storm windows in connection with reducing heat costs, but they all play an integral part in reducing air conditioning costs during the summer as well.

- **Consider replacing your cooling unit if it's more than 10 years old**—It may be costing you more to operate an older system than it would if you invested in a newer, higher-efficiency one.

North American Technician Excellence is the nation's largest non-profit certification organization for heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC/R) technicians. A NATE-certified technician is an individual who has demonstrated knowledge and technical skills in the installation and servicing of HVAC/R equipment.

The U.S. Department of Energy endorses NATE for its dedication in raising quality standards for installation and maintenance of HVAC/R equipment and contributing to increased energy efficiency.

For more information, call 877-420-NATE or visit the Web site at www.natex.org.