

Tips on Air Conditioners

Buying an air conditioner requires more than just picking up the first unit you see, especially if it is a hot, humid day and you're looking for immediate relief.

Here are few suggestions to consider:

- n Buy energy efficient air conditioning equipment. Look for the Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER). The higher the EER, the more efficient the unit.
- n Proper sizing is important in saving energy and money.
- n When possible, put your air conditioner in a center window. It allows for better circulation of cooled air.
- n Seal up the spaces around it so cool air can't leak out.
- n If you are away for more than 24 hours, turn it off.
- n Regularly wash or replace the air conditioner's filter.

Call Before Doing Any Work

Under New York State law, RG&E must be contacted at least five days before any work is done within 10 feet of RG&E overhead high-voltage lines.

Before digging, you must get a stakeout of potential underground wires or pipes. Call Dig Safely New York at **1-800-962-7962** (or www.digsafelynewyork.com.) for a utility stakeout two full working days before digging.

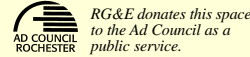


No Matter What Your Abuser Says, There is a Way Out



Alternatives for Battered Women is a not-for-profit agency serving victims of domestic violence and their children. ABW offers emergency shelter, counseling support groups, and assistance in obtaining orders of protection.

Need Help? Call our 24-hour confidential help hotline for victims, family members and friends for information and support (585) 232-7353 or TTY 232-1741. Or visit www.abwrochester.org.



M&T Bank RMSC Young Visionaries Awards

Help honor and encourage 10 outstanding children who are our future leaders by nominating a 10 to 14-year-old for the first 2003 M&T Bank RMSC Visionaries Awards. Prizes include a year of programs at the Rochester Museum & Science Center (RMSC) and \$1,000 savings bond. All applicants receive two free passes to RMSC.

For guidelines and applications go to www.rmhc.org or call (585) 271-4552, ext. 342. Applications are due June 30.

Media Partner: WRWB-TV, Rochester's WB16.
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HIGHLIGHTS



Saving Energy this Summer is Easy, Important

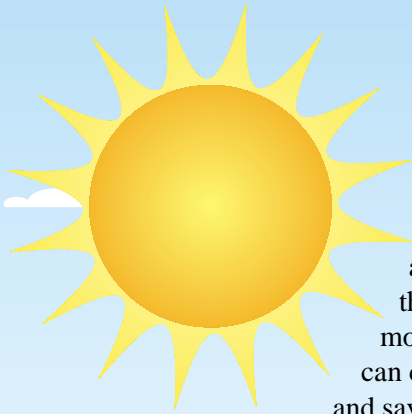
There are many ways to beat the heat and humidity of summer while still using energy wisely.

When you are not home, for example, either turn off your air conditioner or set the temperature higher. Turn off fans, lights, computers, and other appliances when you're away. Use clotheslines to dry clothes and towels.

Using energy wisely also helps ensure reliable service for all customers.

For summer energy-saving ideas look inside.





In this part of the country, conserving energy is often associated with the winter months. But you can conserve energy and save money during the summer, too.

How to Beat the Heat Using Energy Wisely and Save Money

Here's how:

- n Use draperies, blinds, or awnings on the sunny side of your home to shut out heat.
- n Use dryers, ovens, and other heat-producing appliances early in the morning or late in the evening.
- n Cool, don't freeze. Set your air conditioning level at a slightly higher temperature. Each degree you move your thermostat equals savings. Better yet, use a fan instead of your air conditioner.

- n Microwave ovens cook without adding heat to a room. Use stove burners instead of ovens for cooking.
- n Install low-flow showerheads and faucets.
- n Tighten leaky faucets and hoses.
- n Wash full loads of clothes using cold water. If possible, hang clothes out to dry.
- n Unplug extra refrigerators and freezers that may be used occasionally for drinks and ice.
- n Only open refrigerator and freezer doors when necessary. Keep the coils clean.
- n Shorten the operating time or install timers for pool filters and automatic pool vacuums.
- n Ventilate high-moisture areas. Humid air feels warmer than dry air. Use exhaust fans, if you have them, to move air from bathrooms, kitchens, and laundry areas.
- n Use dimmer switches or timers on lights.
- n Caulk or use weather stripping around windows, doors, pipes, ducts, and electric receptacles and boxes.

- n Close vents in rooms that don't need cooling.
- n Check into the value of installing storm or thermal windows. They keep cool air inside.
- n Repair any holes in the roof, walls, doors, ceilings, windows, and floors.
- n Set your water-heater thermostat to 120 degrees (140 degrees if you use a dishwasher).
- n Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent ones. They can give the same quality and quantity of light while using one-third the energy — and they last 10 times longer.
- n Sign up for RG&E's *Budget Billing*. Although it will not reduce your energy costs, it can help you spread charges for your annual usage over a 12-month billing period.

Energy Saving Tips Online — For more energy-saving ideas visit www.rge.com. Click on Residential Services, then go to Energy Programs.