

HOME IMPROVEMENTS



Bryan Peters

Q ■ How can I cool down my house this Summer without spending a fortune on my cooling bill?



Tiffany Peters

A ■ Summer is in full swing and with the heat and

humidity, we are all wondering how to beat the heat! Here are some tips that will not only help in keeping your house comfortable this summer, but can also help you save money on your cooling bill:

- 1) Install a ceiling fan in frequently used rooms. A ceiling fan will make a room feel 4 to 6 degrees cooler. A ceiling fan can also help decrease your cooling bill by up to 15 %.
- 2) Install a programmable thermostat. With a programmable thermostat, the temperature can be preset for different times of the day, so the air conditioning is only running when you are home. A programmable thermostat can help you save up to 20% off your cooling bill.
- 3) Seal air leaks around your home to prevent hot air and humidity from infiltrating. Concentrate on common leaky areas such as around windows and doors, ductwork, kitchen and bath vents, as well as spaces like the attic and basement. Sealing air leaks can take up to 10 % off your cooling bill.
- 4) Be sure your attic is well-insulated and well-ventilated. If your attic has less than R-22 insulation (7 inches of fiberglass or rock wool, or 6 inches of cellulose), you should add more. Increasing attic insulation and ventilation can take up to 20% off your cooling bill.

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