



Heating and cooling your homes uses more energy and drains more energy dollars than any other system in your home. Typically, 44% of you utility bill goes for heating and cooling. No matter what kind of heating, ventilation and air conditioning system you have in your house, you can save money and increase comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading equipment. By combining proper equipment maintenance and thermostat settings you can save money on your energy bills and cut your pollution output in half.

#### Cost Saving Measures:

- Keep draperies and shades closed on south and west facing windows during the cooling season to avoid the sunlight from heating your home.
- Keep registers and cold-air returns clear of furniture and drapes. This will improve your comfort and your systems efficiency.
- Change furnace filter every one to two months if you have central air. This will reduce cooling and dehumidification cost while improving its airflow and quality.
- Turn off air conditioner when no one is home. If possible, use a programmable thermostat for central air or a timer for room air conditioners to control cooling times.
- Check for air leaks around doors and windows and repair with weatherstripping.
- Install white window shades, drapes or blinds to reflect heat away from the house.
- Use kitchen, bath and other ventilating fans wisely; in just one hour, these fans can pull out a handful of cooled air. Turn fans off as soon as they have done the job.
- Limit heat and humidity producing tasks like cooking and laundering to early morning or late evening.