



Arizona Lifestyle

Desert – July / August 2005

APS
THE POWER TO MAKE IT HAPPEN®

Energy Star appliances

To conserve energy and help the environment always purchase energy efficient products bearing the Energy Star insignia. Energy Star is a federal government-backed program helping businesses and individuals protect the environment through superior energy efficiency in products ranging from business equipment to appliances to new homes. Energy Star products can save consumers about a third on their energy bill and bring a similar savings of greenhouse gas emissions, without sacrificing features, style or comfort.

So whether it's a computer, an air conditioner or a new home you're shopping for, look for the Energy Star and conserve energy, save money and help the environment. For more information on Energy Star, visit energystar.gov.



Summer energy-saving tips

Gas costs have increased in 2005, which will impact the recently approved Power Supply Adjustor (PSA). By working together to conserve energy, we can minimize the impact of the PSA.

So, keep these tips in mind to stay cool, save money and conserve energy this summer:

- Set your thermostat a few degrees higher. For every degree you raise your thermostat, you can save two to three percent on the air conditioning portion of your energy bill.
- Use fans along with your air conditioner. They can help reduce energy costs by circulating the cool air. Ceiling fans also can allow for air conditioners to be set three to four degrees higher with minimal change in comfort.
- Repair any broken windows or gaps that can allow cool air to escape. Seal gaps in your home's doors and windows.
- Cover windows with awnings, sunscreens or reflective film and keep drapes, blinds or shades closed during the day to keep out unwanted heat.
- Plant vegetation adjacent to windows — particularly on the west side of the home. This will help reduce heat by blocking the sun's rays.
- Do heat-producing chores such as laundry, cooking and dishwashing during the cooler times of the day. These tasks produce heat, which requires the air conditioner to work harder.

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Energy
Tip

Ceiling fans are a great energy-saving way to stay cool. While ceiling fans don't actually lower the temperature, they help you feel cooler by circulating the air. By using ceiling fans you can set your thermostat three to four degrees higher and still stay cool. The amount of electricity a ceiling fan uses is significantly less than the electricity your air conditioner uses to keep your house three to four degrees cooler.

We're available 7-days-a-week, 24-hours-a-day, aps.com
Metro Phoenix area: 602-371-7171 — Other areas: 800-253-9405



Lineman Bob's Safety Corner

Use caution with ladders and pool equipment

When using or storing metal ladders or metal-handled pool skimmers, brushes and vacuums, be careful to avoid contact between these tools and electrical wires, outlets or meters.

These tools are made of aluminum and other lightweight metals that are excellent conductors of electricity. The length of these ladders and pool poles mean you need to be extra careful to avoid contact with overhead power lines and other electrical devices. Even if your utilities are underground, use caution when storing these tools. A ladder or pole falling onto an electrical meter could cause severe burns, electrocution and death.

A good rule of thumb when working with these tools is to keep the distance between you and electrical lines, meters and outlets at least two times the length of the ladder or pole. Treat all electric lines outlets and equipment with caution and respect. Even low-voltage electric lines and cords can be hazardous if damaged or improperly handled.

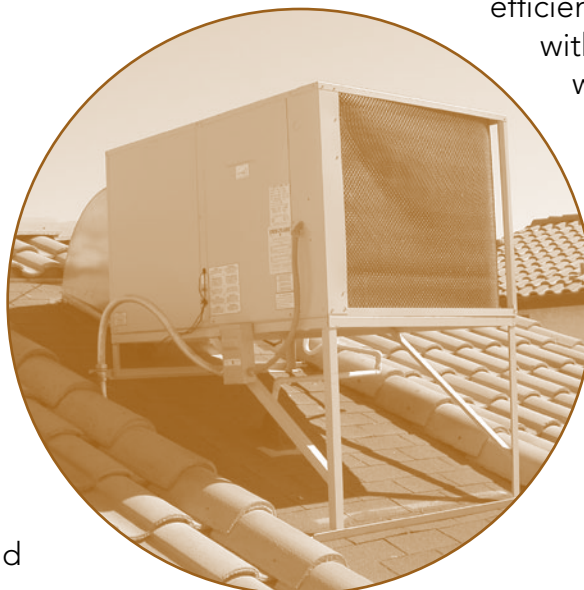
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- Avoid using the oven as much as possible. Summer is the time for cookouts.
- Turn off electronic equipment such as computers and televisions when not in use.
- Take the APS Energy Survey on aps.com. In as little as 10 minutes, this online tool will help you evaluate your home and learn where you can reduce energy use.

For more energy-saving tips or information on the PSA and current gas prices, visit aps.com.

What to do when your air conditioner breaks

Summer heat takes its toll on us all — especially our air conditioners. If the unthinkable happens and your air conditioner quits, don't panic. Call the APS Energy Answer Line at 602-371-3636 or 888-890-9730 for a list of APS Qualified Contractors. These contractors are members of the Arizona Heat Pump Council, a nonprofit contractor association. All APS Qualified



Contractors are licensed, bonded and insured and all commit to a rigorous training program for their service technicians.

Once your qualified contractor is on the way, make sure anyone in your household with health problems is comfortable. Also, check on any pets that might be heat sensitive. If the temperature is causing a problem, see if you can stay at a friend's or neighbor's home until your AC is repaired. Other options include visiting an air-conditioned mall, movie theater or senior center.

If your air conditioner is more than 10 years old, consider replacing it with a new, high efficiency heat pump/air conditioner with a minimum of 12-SEER. It will save you money on your electric bill each month and maintenance on a new unit will be less expensive. APS also has a number of free resources to help you with this decision. Visit us online at aps.com and order the free Consumers' Guide to an Energy-Efficient Air Conditioning System or call the numbers above.