Cooling tips

Use fans. Ceiling fans use only about one tenth the electricity of a typical home air conditioner.

Drapes, shades and awnings shield windows from the hot sun, keeping the indoors cooler.

Certain reflective films can be used on windows to screen out the hot rays of the sun without reducing the amount of light you receive.

Make sure your air conditioner is the proper size for the area you are cooling and locate it on a north wall or shaded area.

Keep shrubbery away from air conditioners since it blocks vents and reduces the unit’s ability to exhaust air.

On very hot days, close the fresh air intake on your air conditioning unit. Cooling outside air requires more electricity than re-cooling the air that is already circulating in your home.

Storm windows come in handy during the summer since they keep cool air in and hot air out.

Weather stripping and caulking windows and door frames will also keep cool air from leaking out.

(Adapted from www.climatemakers.com)