

# Controlling the energy costs of your air conditioning

(NC)—Your air conditioning system uses energy to keep you cool, just as your furnace uses energy to keep you warm. Making the right buying decision will be an important factor in keeping energy costs down. For help in this you need the guidance of a qualified professional, such as an ICG contractor-dealer.

Once your system is installed certain procedures will further help control energy bills. Here are key points:

- Don't lower your thermostat to hurry up the cooling. It doesn't work that way. All you'll accomplish is to make the unit work longer and use more energy. Set the thermostat at the temperature you find comfortable and leave it there. For most people 22C seems to be ideal.
- Keep filters clean. Central air conditioning systems use the filter in the furnace to screen out dust and dirt from the air as it passes through. Some filters are washable. Others must be replaced. But, either way, making sure the unit is cleaned every 60 days - or more often if you live in an area with a high traffic level or exceptionally dusty conditions - will relieve the load on the system and save you money.
- Keep the system in good repair. Air conditioning contractors can provide a routine check of your system that's well worth its cost. They can check worn parts, such as the belt or electrical contacts, find out if your thermostat is oper-

- Don't try to cool the whole out doors. That's what you're doing if you open windows while your air conditioner is on. This is hard on the system and highly wasteful of energy. If you want outside air, turn the system off before you open the windows.

For all of your home comfort solutions, contact your local ICG Heating & Air Conditioning dealer, or for your nearest dealer call 1-800-387-1300.



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