

Prepare your Home for the Hot Summer Months

Central and window unit air conditioners just two ways of keeping home cool

If just the thought of your home during the hot summer months makes you perspire, wipe your brow and look on the bright side — there are many relatively inexpensive ways to turn your home into a cool sanctuary.

One of the easiest ways to beat the heat is to block out the sun by closing your curtains and blinds during the daytime. Installing awnings over your outside windows will also help keep down the heat and can

enhance the appearance of your home.

In addition, try opening your windows early in the morning and closing them by mid-morning when the outside temperature begins to rise.

In the evening, open them again when the temperature cools off.

Fans are another inexpensive way to keep your home cool. They work well during the day and night. To get maximum use out of them, leave the doors between adjoining rooms open to keep air moving throughout your home.

To combat humid weather, you may want to buy a dehumidifier. This appliance removes moisture in the air by temporarily cooling it as it travels through the dehumidifier.

These portable units are available in many sizes, so shop around for one that is most suitable for your home.

Air Conditioning
The most effective way to keep your home cool is by investing in central air conditioning. However, this can be an expensive solution to beating the heat.

On average, it costs from \$2,000 to \$3,000 to install central air conditioning. Before you decide to invest in this system, keep in mind that your home needs duct work to carry the cool air through your home. If it doesn't have it, it is still possible to install central air. If it's out of your price range, a window unit is a less expensive option. You can install your own small unit for as little as \$300 or have one installed for as much as

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\$1,400. These units work well for cooling a specific area of your home such as a bedroom or office. Keep in mind that it will obstruct your window.

(Please see page 17)

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