

Home & Garden

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This summer keep your cool while keeping a lid on energy costs

It's that time of year again. At home and at the cottage, Canadians coast to coast are hauling out their garden hoses, sprinklers and fans, filling up their swimming pools and firing up their barbecues to celebrate the start of their annual love affair with summer.

But wherever you experience the great out-

doors, "Summer can be expensive if you're not careful with energy consumption," said Bob Hugard, vice-president of retail services at Consumers Gas.

Your furnace may be off, but a lot of other things are on - from air conditioning units to sprinklers.

So go ahead, take

advantage of Canada's favourite season of the year. But keep in mind these timely tips for keeping your cool while keeping the lid on energy costs.

Do's and don'ts for keeping your cool inexpensively

✓ Don't let the sun stream into your house during the day, heating it up like a greenhouse. Pull the drapes, close the blinds, and keep the windows closed.

This way, the house will stay closer to its morning temperature all day long. If you have a skylight, install a special skylight blind.

✓ Do keep your air conditioner clean and dust-free to reduce how hard it has to work to keep your house cool. Check your furnace filters monthly. Change or clean filters when dirty.

✓ Don't run appliances that generate heat (e.g., stove/oven, dishwasher, washer, dryer and clothes iron) in the middle of the day. Run them at night when it's cooler.

✓ Do use your barbecue to avoid having the stove and oven heat up the house. Also, think cool when

Continued on next page

farmer Jack's

Hanging Baskets

Potted Plants

SOIL MIXES

TOP SOIL

TRIPLE MIX

BAGGED OR BULK

Annuals

Perennials

MOTHER'S DAY SPECIALS

- Sod
- Sand
- Flagstone
- White Marble
- Gravel
- Cedar Rails
- Grass Seed
- Garden Mulch

- Screening
- Red Chip
- Rockery Stone
- Beach Pebble
- Portland / Masonry
- Garden/Retaining
- Walls & Railway Ties
- Waterfall Stone

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