

# Don't Let Old Man Winter Into Your Home!

The City of Fountain Electric Department offers the following tips to keep you warm throughout the winter season and keep utility costs low:

- **Inspect your heating system.** This should include lubrication and cleaning, replacing filters, checking the belts and thermostats, and having vents cleared of any obstructions. It is best to have this task preformed by a professional who can also test for carbon monoxide leaks.
- **Caulk and install weather-stripping around windows and doors.** This is an easy and inexpensive way to keep the cold air outside instead of leaking into the house.
- **Keep your thermostat set at a conservative level.** Setting your thermostat between 65 and 70 degrees in the winter will reduce the load on your heating system, which can also save you money.
- **Use your ceiling fan.** Set your ceiling fan to operate in a clockwise motion. This will circulate the warm air down from the ceiling and keep the heat where it should be.
- **Insulate your hot water heater.** This can save as much as 10 percent of your water-heating energy. Water heater insulation kits are available in all sizes and are easy to install.
- **Open draperies during the day.** This will allow the sun's heat to help warm your home. Closing them at night will help to retain heat.



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The City of Fountain  
Electric Department  
6745 Southmoor Drive  
Fountain, CO 80817  
Phone: 719-322-2092  
Fax: 719-391-0463

The  
City of Fountain  
Electric Department  
Shares:

**Seasonal  
Conservation  
Tips  
That Save  
You Money!**



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# Thinking of Buying an Air Conditioner to BEAT the HEAT?

Before buying an air conditioning system to beat the heat of the summer, **make sure the service to your home can sustain the additional electrical load required.** Proper sizing, selections, installation, maintenance, and correct use of the unit are all key to cost-effective operations and can lower your overall utility bills. If you are contemplating purchasing an air conditioning system, here are some helpful hints to keep it as energy efficient as possible:

- **Choose the right system for your home.** The basic types of air conditioners include **room air conditioners or central air conditioners.** **Room air conditioners** cool individual rooms rather than the entire house and provide cooling only when needed. **Central air conditioners** circulate cool air through a system of supply and return air ducts throughout the home. This air conditioning unit provides cooling throughout the house according to your thermostat temperature setting.
- **Bigger isn't always better.** Be aware that a large air conditioner will not provide the best cooling. **A larger-than-necessary unit cycles on and off more frequently,** thereby reducing its efficiency. Frequent cycling makes indoor temperatures fluctuate,

which can result in an uncomfortable environment. **Larger units also use more electricity and create added demands on electrical production and delivery systems.**

- **Know how to maintain your system.** One of the key factors to having an efficient air conditioning unit is to **keep air filters clean.** Having clean air filters will **ensure the efficiency of your unit as well as keep allergens out of the home.** Clogged, dirty filters block normal air flow and reduce efficiency of the system significantly. Some filters are reusable; others must be replaced. Clean or replace your system's filter(s) every month or two during the cooling season. If you have an outdoor unit make sure to keep the condenser coils clean. Coils can also become very dirty and interfere with the efficiency of your system.
- **Seal and insulate air ducts.** An enormous waste of energy occurs when cooled air escapes from supply air ducts or when hot attic air leaks into the return air ducts, placing more demand on the unit to run excessively. For central air to be efficient, ducts must be air tight.

For more information visit the US Department of Energy at: [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov). To see if your home can handle the additional load of an air conditioning unit, call the City of Fountain's Electric Department at 322-2092.



## Keepin' Cool & Savin' \$\$

Here are a few more tips on how to keep cool while keeping your money where it belongs—in your pocket!



- Close drapes during the hottest times of day to block heat from entering the home
- Clear attic vents. If the home has an attic fan, make sure it is functioning properly.
- Turn off all unnecessary lights during hot weather. They only add to the heat in the home. Consider switching to cooler, energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs where light is needed.
- Postpone activities that require hot water; such as washing dishes or clothes; to early morning or late evening. This will keep from adding heat and humidity to the home.
- Wear comfortable clothing, light-colored, loose fitting clothing will aid your body in breathing and cooling itself naturally.
- Remove obstacles from around the outdoor unit of your cooling system such as grass, weeds, and leaves. When airflow is blocked, it puts a strain on the system and lowers efficiency.

## Shade your Home, Shave your Bill!!

Did you know that the placement of shade trees (and even some shrubs) can shave your energy bill during the hot summer months? Shading your air conditioning unit can reduce the strain on the motor, which then demands less energy. Shade provided by trees and window treatments reduces solar heat from penetrating into your home, thus reducing the need to run fans or air conditioners.

