

# AMP Summer Energy Efficiency Checklist



## INVEST IN A PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT

Programmable thermostats are a great way to make sure you're not paying to cool your house when nobody is home. A general guideline is to keep your thermostat set to 75 degrees in the summer when you are home and raise it 5 to 10 degrees when you're away. A small change in temperature can save you an estimated 10% a year on your energy costs!

## OPT FOR A CEILING FAN

Instead of cranking up the air conditioning, try using a ceiling fan! A fan uses less energy than your HVAC system, and it can reduce the temperature of the room by about four degrees. Don't forget to turn it off when you leave the room—a fan creates a wind effect that will cool you down, but not the room you're in.

## SCHEDULE ROUTINE HVAC MAINTENANCE

Speaking of air conditioning, you'll want to change your HVAC filters more frequently in the summer. Check monthly, and replace as needed, as well as periodically hiring a professional for routine maintenance. Another good HVAC tip is to shut off vents in unoccupied rooms to save 5% – 10% on your cooling costs.

## ADJUST YOUR SCHEDULE

Simply adjusting when you use energy can make a difference. "Operate your stove, oven, dishwasher and clothes dryer in the morning or evening when it's cooler outside. They add extra heat to your home and make your air conditioner work harder." Michigan's electric grid will thank you, too. By slightly adjusting your energy routine to off-peak hours, you could save money in your energy costs and alleviate strain on the grid that can lead to intermittent outages—or higher energy costs—when everyone is using the grid at the same time.

## CLOSE THE BLINDS

In the summer, it's best to keep your blinds and curtains closed during the day so the sun doesn't add an extra level of heat to your home. By drawing the shades, your HVAC unit won't have to work overtime to keep things cool.

**Don't forget:** Make sure your windows are sealed properly for year-round energy efficiency.

You can still beat the heat this summer while being energy efficient. It doesn't take a lifestyle change—all it takes is selecting few simple tips that work best for you and your family.