

ENERGY EXTRA

The Grand Valley's Energy Newsletter

Avoid Overheating

With summer upon us, most of us will be spending more time outdoors. Whether you will be watching Grand Junction Rockies' baseball or doing yard work, the fact of the matter is at the end of the day most of us are looking to unwind and cool down.

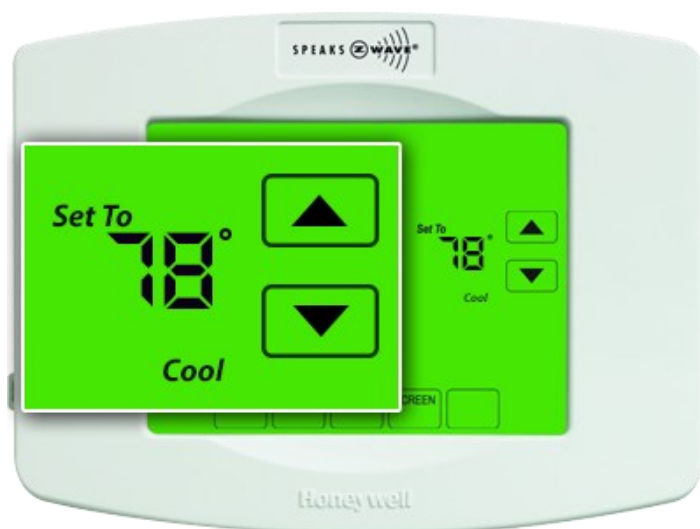
By following these six tips, you will remain cool when you receive your next electric bill:

- Replace or clean your filters – a dusty filter reduces airflow which forces your system to work harder.
- Maintain the ducts and vents – check for leaks in the ductwork and properly insulate ducts that pass through the attic; make sure furniture does not obstruct air vents.
- Check the building envelope for leaks – close fire place dampers, check the seals around doors and windows, and apply caulk when necessary.
- Properly use shades – while natural light is great, letting the sunshine in during the summer can raise the temperature by as much as 20 degrees, close the blinds during the day if your windows aren't low-e coated.
- Use ceiling fans – air moving across the skin can make it feel as though it is six degrees cooler than actual air temperatures and ceiling fans typically only cost \$0.50 a day to operate.
- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees – for each additional degree lower than 78, the average house will use 6% more electricity.



Brought to you by:

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So go out and enjoy the summer, but remember a little maintenance now will keep you cool and pay off at the end of the month.