ASSOCIATION OF HOME APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS

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ENERGY CENTS: SAVING $$$ WITH ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS

Maximize your energy savings by:

- Replacing your old room air conditioner with a new energy efficient model. Today's units can save an average of $26 per year in energy costs compared to older models. Visit our "Who Makes What" section for more information about Room Air Conditioners.

- Buying considerations: before buying a new unit, consider two important factors, cooling capacity and operation efficiency. Cooling Capacity: a room air conditioner's cooling capacity is the amount of heat and moisture transferred from indoor air to the outdoors. Use AHAM's Cooling Load Estimate Form to help you determine what size room air conditioner you need. Be sure to buy a unit as close to the recommended capacity as possible. Click on Getting Started at left to download your own copy of the form. Operating Efficiency: Once you have determined cooling capacity, look for a high efficiency model in that size. Room air conditioner efficiency is expressed as EER (Energy Efficiency Rating). The higher the EER is, the more efficient the model.

- Look for AHAM's green and white room air conditioner certification seal. Certified units display their cooling capacity, electrical input (expressed in amperes), EER, and, if they provide heat, the heating capacity is expressed in Btu/hr. The AHAM seal is your guarantee that the model you choose will maximize your cooling comfort and save you energy dollars.

Maintaining the efficiency of your new room air conditioner:

- Read and follow the unit's instructions in the use and care booklet provided by the manufacturer. Keep the booklet in an accessible place and refer to it as needed.

- Keep the unit clean inside and out. Check the filter regularly, clean or replace as needed. The condenser should be cleaned at least every two or three years.

- Do not restrict the air flowing in or out of the unit.

- If you can, place the unit on the north or east side of the house.

- Be sure the unit is installed properly. Check wiring to be sure the circuit provides the right amperage and voltage.

- Move the thermostat to a warmer setting that still insures air comfort. See manufacturers' guidelines.

- Turn off the unit and open windows when the weather is cool and breezy.
- Close off unused rooms.
- Turn off the unit when the room won't be used for several hours, or set the thermostat higher, or use the 24 hour timer feature.
- Use the fresh air and/or exhaust damper to draw in cool, outside air. Keep damper closed when fresh air is not needed, or when the unit is cooling.

Remember, you save money when you save energy because you lower your electric bills!