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## Top tips for efficient air-conditioning

Homeowners are being offered a few simple tips on running air conditioners to help keep their home's temperature and electricity bills low.

EnergyAustralia's Energy Efficiency Expert Paul Myers said it was important to consider both the purchase price and the potential running costs of a new air conditioner.

"For each degree of cooling, your costs can increase by 10 per cent," Mr Myers said.

"So it's a good idea to keep the setting between 23 and 26 degrees. It's also a good idea to use the recirculate setting and close doors to keep in the cool air."

About 75,000 air conditioners are installed throughout Sydney, the Illawarra, the Blue Mountains, the Central Coast and the Hunter every year.

The right choice when buying an air conditioner could save hundreds of dollars on electricity bills, so keep your eyes open for the star rating label.

"Each extra star results in around 10% lower running costs and greenhouse emissions. Also bear in mind that inverter or variable speed drive models are generally more efficient and have lower running costs".

Mr Myers said it is also important to get the right size air conditioner for the space to be cooled.

"Buying an air conditioner that's too small will mean it won't do the job properly, whereas one that's too big will result in unnecessary expense," he said. "It pays to get informed advice taking into account the floor area, window area and insulation levels.

As we head towards summer, winter warming is probably the last thing on your mind, but you should consider getting one that can heat your home as well.

Reverse cycle air conditioners are an energy efficient way of warming your home during winter so it pays to think about choosing one of these systems which can also replace your old, energy-guzzling radiator or column heater.

### Top five tips for choosing an air conditioner

1. **Buy the right-sized system:** For a rough idea, multiply the number of square metres you want to cool by 125watts and compare this figure to the air conditioner's output.
2. **Consider its heating potential as well:** Reverse cycle air conditioners are also an energy efficient way of space heating your home during winter compared to electric heaters.
3. **Check the star rating label:** The more stars on the air conditioners' label, the more energy efficient it will be.
4. **Placement is key:** For the most efficient operation of your air conditioner it should be installed in a cool, shady location.
5. **Do you really need it?** Ceiling fans are a very low cost way to cool your home. Running costs are only about 1cent per hour compared with 30-40 cents per hour to operate a large air conditioner.

"If homeowners do their homework, it is easy to keep cool without blowing the budget," Mr Myers said.

**Media contact: EnergyAustralia News Pager 02 9966 7985.**