

Five Tips For Ten Cool Years

(NAPSA)—With summertime just around the corner, it's time to start cranking up the air conditioner. Whether a unit is brand new or a few years old, there are some easy tips to help lower cooling costs this summer while contributing to a longer life for your air conditioner.

Improper care and maintenance of your air conditioner can hinder the unit's performance. If not corrected at the start of each cooling season, common problems that can potentially wreak havoc on your system include refrigerant leaks, dirty filters and condensing coils and electric control failure. Neglecting to address these issues can prematurely deteriorate your unit.

"Air conditioning performance is a direct result of how well you take care of the unit during the peak summer months," said Paul Trotter, brand manager for American Standard Heating and Air Conditioning. "With the proper upkeep, you can expect your air conditioner to last for 10 years or more—and consistently perform at its peak throughout its life."

"One of the most important ways a homeowner can proactively contribute to extending the life of his or her air conditioner is



to have a yearly inspection prior to each cooling season. This will guarantee that the unit is prepared to work properly and at maximum efficiency."

American Standard offers five tips to help you get the most out of your air conditioner—while helping you save a buck or two this summer:

- Before summer begins, schedule to have your home's air conditioning system cleaned and checked by a reputable dealer.

- Invest in a good quality, pleated air filter designed to capture more dust and debris and

clean it frequently, at least every 30 days.

- Add insulation to your attic and weatherproof your house by covering all exposed windows and by weather-stripping all doors and windows.

- Keep programmable thermostats at 78 degrees (F) or higher when not at home (for each degree you raise the thermostat above 78 degrees, you save up to five percent on cooling costs).

- Dust or vacuum the vents in your home often to ensure the free flow of cool air.

Routinely replacing or cleaning the filters will ensure that your air conditioner is operating smoothly. Clogged or dirty filters block normal airflow and can reduce a system's efficiency over time.

In addition, a homeowner should carefully assess their landscaping. The Department of Energy reports that the shade produced from trees can reduce surrounding air temperatures by as much as nine degrees. If trees or other plants shade your home, make sure that leaves and sticks are regularly cleared away from your air conditioner.

For additional information, visit www.americanstandardair.com.