



Air conditioning

COOLmob Information Sheet on Energy Efficiency

Tips on air conditioner use

The cooler the temperature you set your air conditioner, the more it costs you to run. All air conditioners are designed to produce air at 17-18 C. They will pump out air at 17 C until the room reaches the temperature you set on your controller.

If you run a fan when you have the air conditioner on you can turn the thermostat up a few degrees while still feeling comfortable. The air conditioner will reduce the humidity and the fan will cool you by increasing the air flow across your skin. Every degree warmer you set your air conditioner temperature control will save you money. Many people find 27-28C ('dry' season temperatures) a comfortable setting for air conditioners when a room fan running.

Check all windows and doors are properly closed and well sealed. Buy door strips to stop cool air escaping from your air conditioned rooms and have good insulation.

Check the air conditioner is not in the sun. Have air conditioners fitted to a shaded wall area or try to create shade so the air entering the air conditioner is cool. That way the air conditioner does not have to work so hard to cool your air.

30 % of Darwin residents sleep without air conditioning in the wet season. Try cooling yourself by

- taking a cold shower before going to bed
- cool the room for 20 minutes before sleeping,
- set the timer to switch off after you go to sleep or set to sleep mode
- use the fan
- only put the air conditioner on when necessary and
- turn the air conditioner up a few degrees and take off the covers.

A small air conditioner (<2kw) run for 10 hours a day every day of the year will cost between \$292 - \$584 per year while a large 3.5kw air conditioner run for the same time will cost between \$510 - \$1920 per year. Passively cooled houses have less need for air conditioners so save you lots of money.

An inverter air conditioner run for similar periods will cost approximately 30% less. New 'solar' air conditioners can save additional cost on power bills too.