



E-Conservation

power to control what you spend

CEILING FANS: COOL BREEZES AND COST SAVINGS

In the heat of the summer, we look forward to any kind of breeze, inside or out. Ceiling fans not only provide that relief from the heat, but also can help homeowners save money and energy all year long. To get the most out of your ceiling fan

- Make sure that it is installed properly. The UL-listed metal box in the ceiling should be marked “For use with ceiling fans.”
- Ensure that the blades are properly balanced. (A balancing kit may have been included in the original packaging or may be available from the manufacturer without charge.)
- Turn off the fan when not in the room.
- Use the fan to move cool air in the summer (blades rotate counter-clockwise) and warm air in the winter (reverse the motor so that the blades rotate clockwise). In the summer, the fan creates a “wind-chill” effect, making you feel cooler. In the winter, the rotation of the blades creates a slight updraft, which moves the warmer air at the ceiling downward to warm the room.
- Adjust the household thermostat to account for the ceiling fan’s cooling or heating effect.

Of the types of fans available (floor, table, etcetera), ceiling fans are considered the most effective for changing room temperature because they create a draft throughout the entire room. When using a ceiling fan, a home’s thermostat setting can be raised by about 4 degrees Fahrenheit with no change in comfort. In some climates, air conditioning is not necessary at all if a home has ceiling fans.

If you are purchasing a ceiling fan, look for the Energy Star label to ensure energy efficiency. Energy Star qualified ceiling fan/light combinations are about 50 percent more efficient than their traditional counterparts, and these units can save \$15-20 annually on utility bills. These fans also may lower costs for heating and air conditioning if used properly. All Energy Star fans allow for the motor and blade direction to be reversed so that the fan may be used year-round.

Make sure to purchase the proper size fan for the room you are furnishing. A 36- or 44-inch diameter fan will cool rooms up to 225 square feet, while a fan with a diameter of 52 inches or greater should be used in a larger room. Multiple fans work best in rooms longer than 18 feet. Small- and medium-sized fans will provide efficient cooling in a 4- to 6-foot diameter area, while larger fans are effective up to 10 feet.

Ceiling fans are appropriate for rooms with 8-foot ceilings or higher. Ideally, the blades would be 7-9 feet above the floor and 10-12 inches below the ceiling. Fans should be installed so that blades are 18 inches from the walls.

For more energy conservation tips for your home, contact _____ at _____ County's center of North Carolina Cooperative Extension.

Additional information:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=ceiling_fans.pr_ceiling_fans

http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/space_heating_cooling/index.cfm/mytopic=12355