

City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

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ENERGYWISE TIP ~ Window Air Conditioners



When summer pours on the heat, you want to be cool. For many reasons, people often turn to a window air conditioner.

While window A/C units can offer many advantages over other options, they present their own challenges and drawbacks. If you are considering a window A/C so you can “chill out” this summer, take a few minutes to weigh the following points.

Let’s start with advantages. First, the upfront cost is significantly less than adding a central air conditioning system to your home. Small units that cool a room start at a little more than \$100, while units large enough to serve an entire 1,400-square-foot house are often priced below \$850. Second, they are easy to install. Most purchasers can mount their unit themselves without too many complications. Third, they can be installed in many places. If your place has transom, single- or double-hung windows, most can find a suitable place to install. Fourth, if operated to provide cooling only where needed, room air conditioners can be less expensive to operate than central units. Lastly, they provide a temporary, transferable cooling solution, which is ideal for renters who may move frequently or have a landlord who is not interested in investing in a more expensive solution.

Now consider disadvantages. First, not all windows support air conditioners. Fixed, glider and casement windows do not accommodate window A/Cs. Second, the overall efficiency of the air conditioning process is usually less than other air conditioning options. That is why it is important to purchase a unit with ENERGY STAR® recognition. Third, remember the window where you install the air conditioner is not functional once the unit is installed. Your outside view will be blocked, and the window cannot be opened to let in fresh air. Fourth, window A/Cs usually require exterior support. Sadly, stories of units falling out windows, even during installation, are common. Fifth, the installation panels that come with the unit can let in a lot of hot air, which is opposite of what you want. Sixth, water dripping from the exterior can end up in unwanted places, such as on a pathway or vehicle. As air conditioners cool, they also dehumidify indoor air, and that water must go somewhere.

Finally, even the best installation may still leave your home or apartment with a security risk.

If you decide a window air conditioner is your best choice for cooling, start by doing some homework. Begin by determining which room or rooms and how much area you are trying to cool. Buying the biggest air conditioner you can find will not necessarily make you feel more comfortable. Air conditioners that are too big for the area they are supposed to cool will perform less efficiently and effectively than a smaller, properly-sized unit. That is because an oversized unit will cool the area to the thermostat setpoint before adequate dehumidification occurs, leaving occupants feeling clammy and uncomfortable.

Window air conditioners are sized by the number of British thermal units (Btus) they remove from your living space over a one-hour period. Units range from 5,000 to 28,000 Btus in size. To estimate the size you’d need, a general rule-of-thumb is that units need 20 Btu of capacity for each square foot of living space being cooled. Another important factor to consider when selecting a unit is room height. Ceilings higher or lower than eight feet can proportionately change your calculation. Consider where direct sunlight will be during the hottest part of the day, as well. If your unit’s exterior is not shaded, it will have to run longer to compensate for the additional heat.

Since air conditioners run on electricity, consider where you will plug the unit into. Smaller room air conditioners (10,000 Btu and under) may be plugged into any 15- or 20-amp circuit if it is not shared with any other major appliances. Larger units (12,000 to 15,000 Btus) require their own, dedicated 115-volt circuit. The largest models (18,000 Btu and larger) require a dedicated 208/230-volt circuit.

To optimize the effectiveness and efficiency of your unit, consider a few more things. When installing, be sure the unit is leveled as per installation instructions so drainage occurs appropriately. Be sure the unit is adequately supported on the exterior. Larger units are especially heavy and require additional support. You do not want to experience that horrible feeling that occurs as you watch your new unit smash on the sidewalk be-

low. At that point, there is no way to cool you down! Also, seal all gaps between the perimeter of the unit and the window to keep hot, humid air outside.

In addition, do not place lamps or televisions near the air conditioner’s thermostat. Sensing heat from these appliances, the air conditioner will run longer than necessary. Set the thermostat as high as comfortably possible. Using fans in conjunction with the A/C will help distribute cooled air more evenly while providing comfort at higher temperature setpoints and saving energy.

When you turn on your air conditioner, do not turn your thermostat setting down lower than your normal temperature setting. The colder thermostat setting will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense. Set the fan speed on high, except on very humid days. When humidity is high, set the fan speed on low for more comfort, which will remove more moisture from the air because of slower air movement through the air conditioner’s coils.

Finally, remember all air conditioners CONSUME ELECTRICITY! In general, the larger the unit, the more it will use. Sadly, some do not realize how much until they receive their electric bill – sometimes after more than a month of use. If a person averages \$0.12/ kWh for summer electrical costs, the following is an estimate of what it will cost to operate a window air conditioner at full load for eight hours each day over a 30-day period, based on the unit’s size:

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| 6,000 Btu - | \$14.40 |
| 9,000 Btu - | \$21.60 |
| 12,000 Btu- | \$28.80 |
| 15,000 Btu- | \$36.00 |
| 18,000 Btu- | \$43.20 |
| 24,000 Btu- | \$57.60 |

Your local utility wants to help you keep cool this summer! This includes helping you manage the energy needed to do so. For more ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWiseSM, as well as financial incentives to help with the cost of your energy-saving upgrades, contact your local utility.

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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

August 7th
August 21st

Cross-Connection Control Survey Form

In the upcoming months, City of Wayne customers will receive a “Cross-Connection Control Survey Form” in the mail that needs to be completed and returned to the City Offices. This form will help prevent the accidental contamination of the City’s drinking water.

The City of Wayne is required to do this not less than once every five years, and will greatly appreciate your cooperation.



Department News ~

Wayne Public Library ~



Area youth have rocked the Library during this year's Summer Reading Program by reading for 2,375 hours! But we still have a lot of summer left. July 16th through August 14th we will be having a YOUTH READING CHALLENGE! Stop by the Library and pick up your reading challenge information and see the great prizes you can win. The drawing will be Wednesday, August 15th at 1:00 p.m.

Chess and Board Game Fridays will be coming to an end on August 10th; only two left to go. Join us on the first two weeks of August on Fridays at 3:00 p.m. Open to all ages! Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Toddler Time, previously known as Mother Goose time, resumes every Wednesday morning at 10:00, beginning August 8th. We welcome kids and caregivers of all ages; the activities are geared for children infant through age 5.

Enjoy an evening of relaxing with

the Adult Coloring Night on Tuesday, August 14th, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Library. All color pages, crayons, markers and pens, plus a light snack, will be available at this FREE event sponsored by Pac-N-Save. Coloring Nights are open to men and women, high school grads and older. Coloring benefits people by lowering stress & anxiety levels, helping a person focus on the present to achieve mindfulness, and giving the brain relief by entering a meditative state. So join us to give it a try!

Students: stop in for a "Back to School" party on August 15th. We will be having a movie with snacks starting at 1:30 p.m., following the Youth Reading Challenge drawing.

Junk in the Trunk will be Saturday, August 18th at 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Call the Library to register. Vendor set-up begins at 7:00 a.m. Junk in the Trunk is set up in the south end of the parking lot, and vendors are allowed to sell their items

"garage sale" style at no cost to them.

Join us for an Adult Craft Night on August 21st at 6:30 p.m., where we will be making clothespin American flag wreaths. The cost is \$7 per wreath. You must sign-up by August 16th.

Youth Book Club Will meet on Wednesday the 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th at 3:30 p.m. for about half an hour to discuss a book all are reading. The first book is the classic, Tom Sawyer. Students entering 5th grade through 8th grade are welcome.

And a reminder, summer hours continue, which means we will be closed on Sundays. Even with our doors closed, patrons still can access many of our great online resources. Ask at the desk for more information on Libby & Overdrive for eBooks and audiobooks that may be downloaded to your personal device!

WISE WORDS

"There is no limit to what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit."

~ John Wooden

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Monday & Friday

9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Tuesday

11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Saturday

8:00 am.—Noon

Or by appointment
Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday

Green Notes ~ Wayne Grow an Extra Row!!



This summer, join gardeners in donating fresh produce from the garden to our local food pantries. While picking your produce, set aside a bag of beans, a few tomatoes, spinach, cucumbers, squash, or anything fresh from the garden. Bring your garden produce to the Wayne Food Pantry at the First Presbyterian Church, Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.—noon, or to the Our Savior Lutheran Church Food Pantry on the 4th Saturday morning of each month. It doesn't have to be a lot, but if everyone contributes, it will add up fast. Thanks for growing that extra garden row!

Electronics Recycling Coming: Save the date of Saturday, September 15th, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. (or earlier if the

truck fills up) on 3rd Street between Lincoln and Pearl Streets again. More details next month.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Results: Great job by our community for bringing in their HHW for proper disposal at the collection event sponsored by the Nebraska Resource Conservation & Development Council this past April. Nearly 3,000 pounds of HHW, or 1.5 tons, were properly disposed of and diverted from our landfills. Thank you for taking the time to "Recycle Right!"

For more tips on the Green Path to the Good Life, like the Wayne Green Team on Facebook or visit www.cityofwayne.org/greenteam.

The Fair Housing Act protects people from discrimination when they are renting, buying, or securing financing for any housing. The prohibitions specifically cover discrimination because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability and the presence of children.

If you believe you may be a victim of housing discrimination, contact HUD 1-800-669-9777 or your local Fair Housing representative:

Wes Blecke
306 Pearl Street
Wayne NE 68787
(402) 375-1733
wblecke@cityofwayne.org

YOUR CHOICE. YOUR RIGHT. YOUR HOME.

