

ROOM AIR CONDITIONER TUNE-UP TIPS

Your room air conditioner is one of your most versatile and beneficial appliances. In many cases, an air conditioner is taken for granted, receiving little or no maintenance unless the unit breaks down. If the air conditioner is neglected, there is a gradual lowering of efficiency which can add to utility costs without the owner knowing it. That's why tuning up your air conditioner, just as you do your car, can reduce your operating costs and prolong the life of your equipment.

There's another way you benefit from proper use and maintenance: when more and more owners operate their air conditioners more efficiently, utility companies can make more efficient use of their equipment. And that helps hold the line on the cost of electricity for everyone.

Following are some tips on how to get the most from your air conditioner. If you follow these suggestions, you'll be conserving precious energy, helping to keep your

utility costs as low as possible, as well as adding to the health and comfort of your family.

- + If the unit will not operate, make sure it is plugged in.
- + Dirt accumulation on coils reduces efficiency so clean coils on the inside as well as the outside.
- + Clean or change the filter.
- + Check outside to see if bushes, trees, or other foliage are blocking the unit. If so, trim them away from unit to allow free flow of air.
- + Check inside to make sure furniture or drapes do not obstruct the flow of air into the room.
- + Finally, if unit runs and does not emit cool air, call a serviceman.

Appliance Life Expectancy

Don't be surprised if that electric range you bought back in 1961 is showing signs of age. According to Edison Electric Institute it has already passed its life expectancy.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has just completed a survey of the service life expectancies of household appliances that it hopes will be useful in planning family budgets in deciding whether to repair or replace an appliance.

For appliances obtained new, the average lengths of time a homeowner keeps the appliance is:

+ Electric Range	12.1 years
+ Gas Range	13.5 years
+ Refrigerator	15.2 years
+ Washing Machine	10.8 years
+ Dishwasher	11.1 years
+ Electric Dryer	13.7 years
+ Gas Dryer	12.8 years

If appliances are acquired used, the expectancies are seven years for a refrigerator and gas range; six for an electric range; five for a washing machine, and electric or gas clothes dryer.

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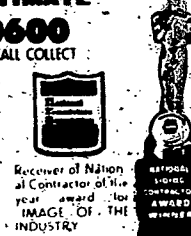
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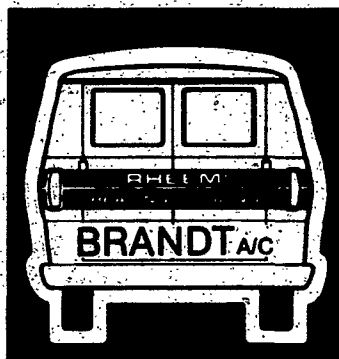
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