

Ladies Have You Heard?

By Doris Thomas

Lancaster Extension **Home Economist**

Air Conditioner Tips

You've recently bought a room air conditioner and you're all smiles. You made sure it is right for your house and that it is energy efficient. Just think of all the energy you'll be saving while staying cool. But wait a minute. Are you doing all you can to make sure the air conditioner runs efficiently? There are several ways that you can help your air con-

ditioner keep your house cool and save even more money.

One thing to do is to reduce the outside heat coming into your house:

 Shade windows from sunlight with drapes, shades, shutters, awnings or overhangs.

· Use storm windows, especially those that can be opened or closed as the weather changes. Be sure to weather strip your windows and doors, too, and keep them tightly

 Close all unnecessary openings such as fireplace dampers

· Add insulation, but first get professional advice on how much to add. As a rule, ceiling insulation should be 6 inches thick and wall insulation 3 to 4 inches thick.

You can also reduce the heat generated on the inside of your house.

· Turn off all electric lights and appliances when not needed.

· Avoid using the heated dry cycle on your dishwasher.

· Spread out use of heatproducing appliances such as irons

· Don't cook or use laundry equipment and dishwashers during the hottest part of the day.

Keep your air conditioner at peak efficiency:

• Keep the unit clean inside and out. Clean the filter regularly. Clean the condenser at least every two to three years.

• Don't restrict the air flow into or out of the unit either indoors or outdoors.

· Locate the unit on the north side of your house if possible and install it properly. Make sure the house has the necessary amperage and voltage.

Do not use the unit more than it is necessary; try to do the following:

 Set the thermostat to a warmer temperature. A minimum of 78° is recommended.

• Turn the unit off and open windows when the weather is cooler or breezy.

· Close off unused rooms.

• Turn the unit off if the room is not going to be used for several hours.

Use the fresh air and/or

exhaust damper (if your unit has one) sparingly.

Above all, follow the manufacturer's instructions on the use and care of your air conditioner. Help your air conditioner keep you cool.

You Can Freeze Dairy Products

You're about to leave for vacation and realize you have a quart of milk in your refrigerator. You also have some cheddar and some cottage cheese.

There's no need to toss any of these products out; you can safely freeze them. Recommended storage time in the freezer is shorter than for other foods, however. And you should be aware that, except for the butter, margarine, and lard, the quality of the thawed product won't be as good as fresh. Milk will separate and cheese will get crumbly, so plan to use these products in cooking. However, do not use milk to prepare baked custard.

The following guidelines should help you freeze dairy products successfully:

Pasteurized homogenized milk freeze in original cartons; storage time — 1 month.

Cream - if contains at least 40 percent butterfat it can be frozen for use later in making ice cream or in cooking. Package in freezer containers allowing ample headspace. Storage time - 3 to 4 months.

Butter, Margarine, Lard freeze in original cartons for short storage or overwrap cartons for longer storage — up to 6 months.

Cheese - wrap tightly in heavyduty foil or any pliable freezer wrap. Thaw cheese in this wrap-

Freeze hard cheeses such as cheddar in pieces of one-half pound or less. Cream cheese will freeze well if blended with heavy cream. Use for dips or icing on frozen sandwich loaves.

Specialty cheeses freeze satisfactorily. Blue cheese will become crumbly after freezing but it will still be usable for some dishes such as salads.

Uncreamed cottage cheesemade from pasteurized milk must be frozen very rapidly to avoid water separation when thawed.



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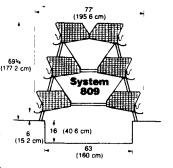


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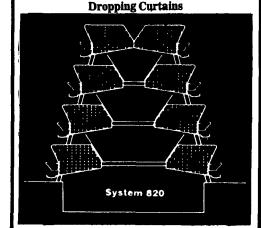
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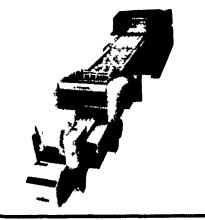
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