



From your local
REAL ESTATE EXPERT

July

KEEPING YOUR HOUSE COOL IN A HEATWAVE

It's summer, and while we all talk about "beating the heat", sometimes the heat starts beating us! So, how can we keep our house cool in the midst of a heatwave without killing our wallet with the A/C bill?

1. Close all the blinds and curtains to block out the sun and reflect the heat away from your home. HINT: White reflects the most heat! For another little boost, you can also include window films and solar sun screens to help block out even more.
2. Install "Cool" Lighting. No, I'm not talking about flashy colored strobe lights, I mean high-efficiency low-heat LED bulbs, since normal incandescent bulbs can put off a fair amount of heat when on. Also, turn lights off if they aren't needed.
3. Do your cooking outdoors, eat meals that don't require cooking, or use the microwave to prevent heating up your home with the stove and oven. If you do need to cook indoors, try using slow cookers, cover all pots and pans, and use the vent fan on your range hood to blow the heat outside.
4. Turn off electronics like TV's, computers, laptops, and other electronics, which can put out heat even when sitting idle.
5. Single-pane windows and doors are the biggest culprits for letting heat into your home, so ensure there is proper weather-stripping, and keep doors and windows locked tight during the heat of the day. If you have no A/C, open your windows only overnight if it's cooler than mid-70s Fahrenheit to let the cooler air in.

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MINT MANGO ICED GREEN *Tea*

Ingredients:

1 mango, peeled, stoned and chopped
100g granulated sugar
4 tsp green tea leaves
small bunch fresh mint
1 lime, sliced
ice

STEP 1 - Put half the mango in a saucepan with the sugar and 100ml water. Cook for 8-10 mins then strain through a sieve and leave the liquid to cool.

STEP 2 - Meanwhile, pour 500ml boiling water into a large heatproof jug and add the green tea leaves. Leave to steep for 5 mins, then strain into a large glass jug and add 300ml cold water. Leave to cool completely then put into the fridge to chill.

STEP 3 - Once cold, add the strained mango syrup to the chilled tea, along with the rest of the chopped mango, fresh mint and the lime slices. Fill up the jug with ice, stir gently and serve.

Yard Care: Save Water AND Money With These Little Gadgets!

1. Use a hose extension wand with an on/off switch to save water as you go from one place to another.
2. Use Soaker hoses to water your beds. They are porous, so when turned on, the water slowly drips out of the hose pores, conserving water.
3. Water timers will let you schedule the time of day you water, as well as the length of time
4. Use water from the rain barrel to water the plants.
5. Invest in slow-release watering gadgets, especially for container plants.
6. Use mulch and compost to layer over your garden, which protects the soil and provides organic matter, which means your plants will require less water.



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