WAYS TO KEEP (Y)OUR HOMES COOL FROM THE INSIDE

001. WINDOWS (even DOORS)

NIGHT → OPEN. DAY → CLOSE + SHADES

If you can, crank open windows (doors too?) at night and let the cool air flow in (see #2). As the day heats up (and before you leave for work or play) close them all and pull the shades on any window that gets direct sun. Shades on the outside are most efficient and effective, the sun’s heat stays out. During the day you can also place reflective coverings (think foil!) on the inside of the worst offending windows.

002. FANS and more FANS

IN WINDOWS AT NIGHT, CEILING BY DAY

We are such fans of fans. They don’t use oodles of energy. During the day a ceiling fan or desktop fan can help you feel cooler (hey, a good thing!). But at night fans are the best because they can bring in sweet coolness. Try placing one in a window facing in and then generate some cross current by adding a second fan to a different window and facing it out.

003. LIGHTS, STOVE, OVEN, and SUCH

WHAT AND HOW YOU USE THESE → ESSENTIAL!

First, check your lightbulbs - are they warm? If so, and they are on a lot, they’re adding heat. Getting rid of incandescent bulbs and replacing with LEDs can help keep your home cool (by a bunch of degrees). Cook fast! Avoid slow cook dishes and the oven. Keep the heat out by firing up the outdoor BBQ! Use all appliances sparingly, and isn’t this a good time to avoid ironing?

Have Air Conditioning? All these tricks can help you run it less often, keeping your carbon footprint lower. If you are using AC (it can be nice) shading the unit helps it run more efficiently and cuts down on energy costs.

There’s also much you can do on the OUTSIDE of your home or apartment – SEE OUR SHADE GUIDE!

Weather the weather better at missoulaclimate.org/summer-smart