

## Ceiling fan energy savings

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Courtesy of DirectBuy

A ceiling fan may help you lower or raise the thermostat

Ceiling fans are an easy and potentially attractive way to cool or warm a room.

A ceiling fan uses the power of a 100-watt light bulb and could save you about 40 percent on cooling and about 10 percent on heating if you adjust the thermostat accordingly, said Sara Shragal, a staff writer for DirectBuy.

Fans with Energy Star labels are even more efficient.

Ceiling fans don't necessarily lower or raise room temperature but they make people feel more comfortable. For example, a room may seem up to 8 degrees cooler when a fan is running and may create enough of a chill to prompt turning off the air conditioning.

Check the manufacturer's instructions but running the ceiling fan in a counter clockwise direction in the summer likely will create a cooling breeze. Run a fan clockwise during the winter and you'll bring the air from the ceiling down the walls.

Ideally, blades should be positioned 7 to 9 feet above the floor and 10 to 12 inches below the ceiling.

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