

## **Mike's AC Tips:**

### **Never turn your AC below 72 degrees:**

Trying to cool below 72 degrees in this summer heat and humidity will only freeze up or cause excessive wear on the AC. This happens because the exterior temperature is so hot that the AC does not cut off often enough for the system to rest.

If the AC freezes up, the home will not be cool, it may start dripping water from the ceiling, and you may damage the unit. Also, a frozen AC continues to draw electricity until turned off. After turning off it can then take several hours for the unit to defrost, increasing time without fully functioning air conditioning.

If the AC unit is damaged, it not only costs money for the owner to repair and may mean you are without AC for several days waiting for replacement AC parts.

### **Your Air Filter Needs to be changed every 30 days:**

Failure to change the air filter on a monthly basis can attribute to the AC freezing up and inefficient cooling and higher AC Bills. "90 day" air filters do not last 90 days in College Station, due to how many hours per day ACs runs they need to be replaced every 30 days. Use Good mid-range priced filters.

### **Current Weather Conditions in College Station:**

Occasionally we have long hot summer days for months on end in College Station when the heat is over 100 degrees every day. The biggest problem this summer is we have a very large heat index caused by humidity and no rain.

Your thermostat may say 103. However, when the humidity is factored your heat index of what the heat feels like may be 113. To cool your AC must remove humidity from the air and then cool the air that it recirculates. If you set your AC on 72 degrees, it will cycle up or down 3-5 degrees from 72.

It is tempting to turn up your thermostat when leaving for school or work in an effort to lower your utility bill, however, this must be done with care. You should not raise (or yo-yo) your thermostat more than 4 degrees from day to night.

If you raise your thermostat too much the AC system will have to work so hard and so long when you lower it back down to reach the desired temperature that any savings accumulated while gone will be lost. A hot house also needs time to cool down inside surfaces like walls and ceilings.

At my house, I leave the thermostat on 75 degrees in the morning and the heat in my home is 78 degrees when I come home. Even though I turn my thermostat down to 72 degrees at night, it is often around 2:00 AM before the temperature reaches 72 degrees when the daytime temperature is over 100 degree temperature.

When the weather is extremely hot, most AC units cannot cool much more than 15-20 degrees below the outside air temperature.

This means that most AC units simply cannot keep up with cooling in the low 70s or high 60s in the afternoons when the outside temperature and heat indexes peak out at 113 degrees. Heat index is the actual outside temperature plus the "feels Hotter" degree temperature due to excess humidity in the air.