

Heat and Cool Your Grocery Efficiently

Space heating and cooling make up a significant portion of a grocery's energy bill. Below are tips to minimize energy waste and cost related to Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC).

Turn Things Down

Some equipment cannot be turned off entirely, but turning units down to minimum levels can save energy. Examples are computers, soda machines and vending machines.

Set Back HVAC Temperatures

During hours when the store is closed, turn temperature settings down in warming seasons and up in cooling seasons. Check special-use rooms, like warehouses, stockrooms, offices, and other work areas, to make sure that HVAC settings are at minimum settings as well.

Check the Economizer

The linkage on the damper, if not regularly checked, can seize up or break. An economizer that's stuck in the fully open position can add as much as 50 percent to a building's annual energy bill by allowing hot air in during the air-conditioning season and cold air in during the heating season.

Have a licensed HVAC mechanical contractor calibrate the controls; check, clean, and lubricate your economizer's linkage about once a year; and make repairs if necessary.

Check Air-conditioning Temperatures

With a thermometer, check the temperature of the return air going to your air conditioner. Then check the temperature of the air coming out of the register nearest the air-conditioning unit. If the temperature difference is less than 14° Fahrenheit (F) or more than 22°F, have a licensed HVAC mechanical contractor inspect your air-conditioning unit.

Change Filters

Change air-conditioner filters every month—more often if you're located next to a highway or construction site where the air is much dirtier.

Check Cabinet Panels

On a quarterly basis, make sure that the panels to your rooftop air-conditioning unit are fully attached, screws are in place, and gaskets are intact so no chilled air leaks out of the cabinet.

Clean Condenser Coils

Remove debris that may have collected around condenser coils. At the beginning and end of the cooling season, thoroughly wash the coils.

Clean Evaporator Coils

Remove any dirt and ice that builds up on evaporator coils. Buildup slows down the rate of heat transfer and causes the refrigeration system to use more energy to maintain the same temperature.

Check for Airflow

Hold your hand up to air registers to ensure that airflow is adequate. If there is little airflow, or dirt and dust are found at the register, have a licensed HVAC mechanical contractor inspect your unit and duct work.

Cleaning and Maintenance

Follow this schedule for checking the following equipment.

Monthly	Change A/C filters
Quarterly	Check that rooftop A/C cabinet panels are tightly closed Clean condenser coils Check registers to ensure adequate airflow Clean evaporator coils
Seasonally	Inspect A/C unit prior to start of hot weather Have a licensed HVAC mechanical contractor check your economizer in spring and fall

