How to Stay Cool during this Heat Wave

Although it’s only summer officially since June 21st, the Southern Piedmont area is in the middle of a heat wave this week. High temperatures about 90 degrees could cause problems with air conditioning units and may result in higher than normal utility bills. The Better Business Bureau has advice for how you can stay cool during the hot weather.

Don’t fall for devices and products that promise drastic reductions in home energy costs.

Air conditioning units can be the most expensive equipment in your home,” said BBB President Mark Bartholomy. “Even the most efficient system will lose its ability to cool your home if all the windows and doors are open, or if the air filter is dirty and restricts airflow.

Don’t fall for devices and promises that drastically reduce home energy costs.

For example, energy-efficient light bulbs can save you money on your utility bills, but they are not a substitute for regular maintenance and cleaning of your air conditioning system.

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For more information, please visit www.bbb.org/heatwave.

In the past 36 months, consumers have checked out air conditioning services with the BBB for $770,000 in North Carolina. Almost 40% of complaints were related to HVAC contractors not performing work properly.

As a result of the complaints, the BBB has issued a warning to consumers about HVAC services.

The BBB has these tips for making your home more energy-efficient:

• Check your air conditioning system and troubleshoot each month.

If you are on a fixed income and have trouble paying your utility bills, contact your utility company to find out about emergency assistance plans.

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