



# Connected

## Keep Your Cool and Save Money This Summer with Ceiling Fans

As temperatures climb during summer, many households see a spike in their energy bills, primarily due to increased air conditioning use. But one simple, often overlooked solution can help: the humble ceiling fan.

Ceiling fans don't actually lower a room's temperature, but they make you feel cooler by creating a wind-chill effect. This allows you to raise your thermostat by several degrees without sacrificing comfort. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a ceiling fan allows you to set your thermostat 4°F higher with no discomfort. That can add up to significant energy savings.

To maximize effectiveness, ensure your fan is set to spin counterclockwise during the summer. This pushes air downward, creating a breeze that evaporates sweat and cools your skin. Also, turn fans off when you leave the room—they cool *people*, not air, so there's no benefit to running them in empty spaces. Modern ceiling fans are energy efficient, and many come with built-in LED lighting, adding even more savings to your electric bill. Some models even have smart controls, allowing you to program or control schedules remotely from your phone.

In short, ceiling fans are a low-cost, energy-saving way to beat the heat this summer. Combined with smart thermostat settings and sound insulation, they can help keep your home cool and your wallet happy. [C3](#)



## Smart Outdoor Watering Tips to Save on Your Water Bill This Summer

As summer heat rolls in, keeping your lawn and garden green can seriously strain your water bill. But a few smart watering habits can help you maintain a healthy yard *without* wasting water—or money.

- 1. Water early or late in the day.** The best time to water is early morning or the evening, when the sun is low and temperatures are cooler. Midday watering leads to evaporation before water can soak in, meaning your plants get less and your bill goes up.
- 2. Water deep, not often.** Instead of shallow, daily sprinkles, aim for deep watering a few times a week. This encourages roots to grow deeper and become more drought-resistant. Lawns typically need only about one inch of water per week, including rainfall.

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3. **Use mulch to lock in moisture.** Mulching around flower beds and garden plants helps retain moisture, reduce evaporation, and cool soil temperatures. It also cuts down on weeds that compete for water.
4. **Fix leaks and adjust sprinklers.** A leaking hose or broken sprinkler head can waste hundreds of gallons a month. Ensure your system is aimed correctly — on the lawn and garden beds, not the sidewalk — and check for leaks regularly.
5. **Choose drought-resistant plants.** Native and drought-tolerant plants require less water and thrive in hot conditions. They're a wise, sustainable choice that adds beauty and resilience to landscaping.



With a few minor changes, you can keep your outdoor spaces healthy and vibrant this summer, without draining your wallet. Every drop counts! ☀

## Pay with Cash



The CheckOut by PayGo cash payment option allows you to pay a portion — or all — of your utility bill anytime you shop. You can pay your entire bill once a month or a portion of your bill each week. It is up to you!

Current participating retail stores include Walmart, CVS Pharmacies, Family Dollar, Dollar General, Walgreens, and

Kroger. Visit [MPWCheckout.com](http://MPWCheckout.com) for more information and instructions. You will need your account number to log in. A convenience fee of \$1.95 will be added to each cash payment. ☀

## Calendar of Events

**Saturday, August 30 through Monday, September 1**

### 39th Annual Art in the Park



Glover Park in Marietta Square, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, includes Children's Art Alley, Free Festival Admission

**Chalk Spot:** Saturday, August 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Celebrate Labor Day weekend with a juried artist market, live music, and fun hands-on activities for children.

#### Fine Art

Over 200 artists participate in the juried Art in the Park Artist Market. The Market offers visitors the chance to view and purchase works in acrylic, oil, and mixed media, as well as jewelry, pottery, glass, photography, metal, wood, and digital media.

#### Street Painting with Chalk

Art in the Park has partnered with the **Marietta High School Visual Arts Program** to host the **Chalk Spot** street art experience. Participants can mark a 3-ft. square space on a closed street. Using chalk, young artists will

draw unique masterpieces, which will remain on display throughout the festival weekend (weather permitting). The fee to participate is \$10, and pre-registration is not required.

#### Children's Art Alley

There are plenty of possibilities for younger kids to enjoy themselves at Art in the Park, and the emphasis is on creativity! Families can head to **Children's Art Alley** to find activities, games, and crafts for kids, many of which are free. Activities like face painting and sand art require a small fee.

#### Live Music

The gazebo in the center of Marietta Square comes alive throughout the three-day festival with complimentary performances from local singers and songwriters. Visitors are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs to sit back, relax, and enjoy the tunes.

For a festival map and more information, please visit [ArtParkMarietta.com](http://ArtParkMarietta.com).

**For a complete list of City of Marietta events, please visit [MariettaGA.gov](http://MariettaGA.gov) and click on Calendar of Events.**

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