

Three Steps to Cost-Effective Apartment and Condo Heat Protection

Step 1: Plan ahead to keep cool

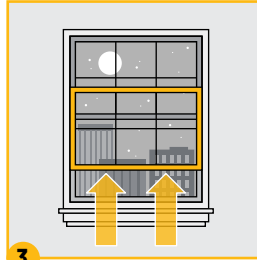
Do-it-yourself, \$0-\$100



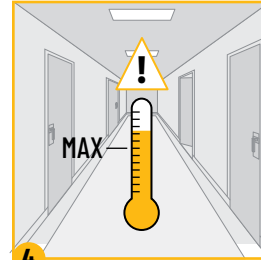
1 Help vulnerable neighbours, family, friends prepare and arrange to check on them during heat events.



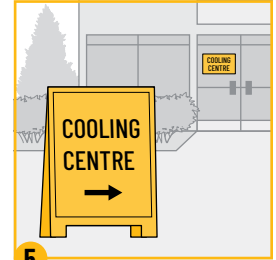
2 Sign up for heat alerts on your phone (e.g., [WeatherCan](#), [Alertable](#)).



3 Improve indoor air circulation with portable or ceiling fans, and naturally ventilate your unit by opening windows and doors, particularly at night.



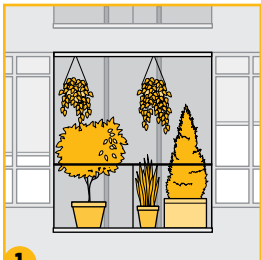
4 Monitor indoor temperature to protect residents from unsafe heat.



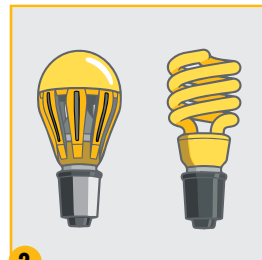
5 Arrange to spend time in a cooler space (e.g., shared cooling space).

Step 2: Complete simple upgrades

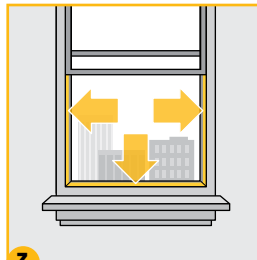
Do-it-yourself, for under \$500



1 Green your balcony or deck with potted, hanging and climbing plants.*



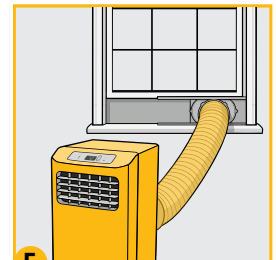
2 Choose energy efficient lights that produce less "waste" heat.



3 Improve unit insulation and air tightness (e.g., draft strips).



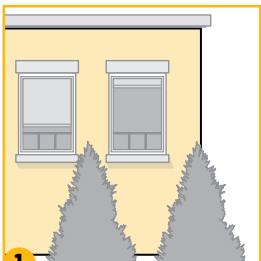
4 Install blinds, heat-resistant curtains, or films on windows.



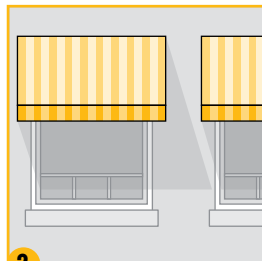
5 Use a portable AC to help increase air circulation.

Step 3: Complete more complex upgrades

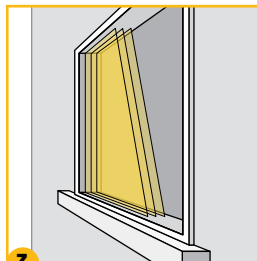
With building managers, for over \$500



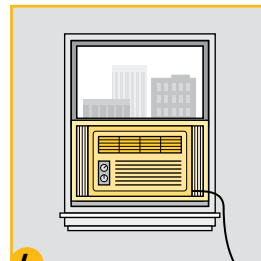
1 Paint unit walls with white paint or light colours.



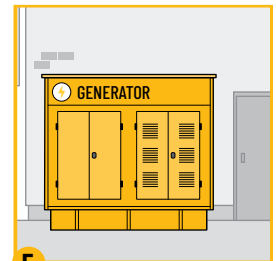
2 Shade windows with outdoor shutters and awnings.



3 Install windows and doors with low Solar Heat Gain Coefficients, that let less heat in.



4 Install and maintain a heat pump or air conditioning unit.



5 Plan for back-up power, with adequate fuel supply, during outages in multi-unit buildings and critical facilities.

* In places at risk of wildfire, the use of green infrastructure must be considered alongside [FireSmart™](#) guidance.

Note: For any upgrades, check with your landlord or strata.

