

**5-YEAR
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WARRANTY**

**TOP SUMMER
HOME ORGANIZATION TIPS**



TOP SUMMER HOME ORGANIZATION TIPS

Summer is the time for fun in the sun with vacations, activities and increased family time. But all that fun can start cluttering up your space and all that sun can result in dramatic increases to your utility bills.

But, don't worry at Cook Portable Warehouses, we work hard to be a helpful resource with valuable tips, tricks and ideas to help you get and stay ready throughout the summer months.

So here is a guide with some of the most popular summertime tips for your home, yard and family, featured on our blog. And check out our blog for more like [4 Musts for your Shed's Summer Maintenance](#), [5 Backyard Makeovers Trends for Summer](#) and [How to Get your Grill Ready for Summer](#).



5 WAYS TO GET ORGANIZED THIS SUMMER

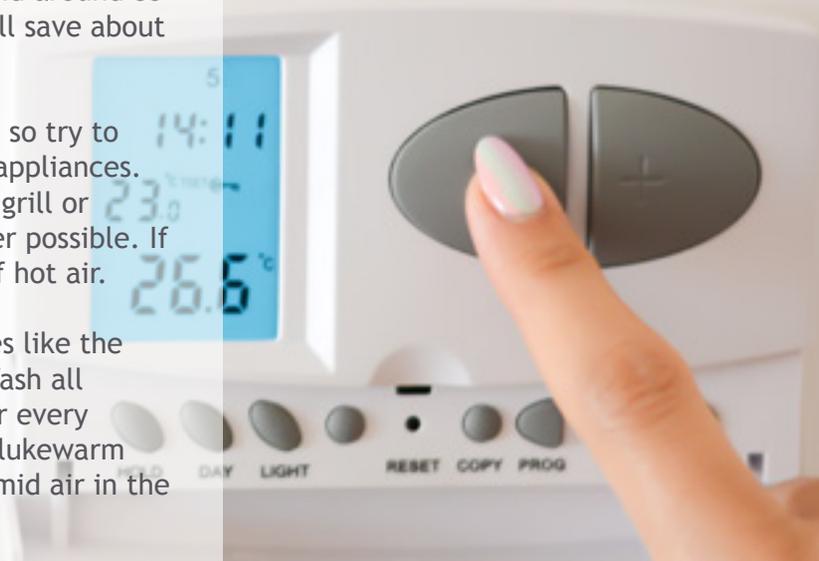
Summer means lots of fun things like vacations and family time but it also means a lot more stuff in your home and yard cluttering it up. Here are 5 simple ways to keep your life organized throughout the summer months.

- 1. Use bins for summer shoes** - There is one shoe of summer and it's the flip flop. But these light weight, versatile shoes will end up everywhere in your home, including by the doors to on the kitchen and bedroom floors. So, grab a large colorful plastic bin, attach a sticker or sign that says "flip flops" and leave it by the front door. This will only take a few minutes and save you tons of time later.
- 2. Clean your grill tools** - Summer is the time for family barbecues but with all that use your grilling tools (spatulas, kabob sticks and grill baskets) can get a little dirty. So don't just leave them outside after a delicious dinner. Use a bin or bucket with a handle to hold tools. Then, you can just carry them all inside to wash and dry them at one time.
- 3. Protect from summer pests** - It's important to protect yourself and your family from the harsh summer sun and from those annoying flying bugs. So keep sunscreen, bug spray, aloe and ChapStick in a container so you can grab it quickly on the way outside. It's also a good idea to keep some of the same products in an on-the-go bag.
- 4. Prepare to-go kits** - A lot of summertime is spent on the go with outdoor activities, lessons, camps, vacations, etc. So a great way to stay organized is to fill small plastic bags with essential supplies for different activities. These could include first aid kits, items for the pool, camping trips and activities/games for travel. Then, just store in the closet and grab whenever you need them.
- 5. Make healthy snacks** - Since kids will be hanging around the house more often during the summer, make it easy for them to eat healthy. Make snack boxes with sliced up fruit and veggies, string cheese, yogurt and almonds. Then, when they are hungry they can just grab something quickly.

5 WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR ENERGY BILLS THIS SUMMER

With those sweltering outdoor temperatures of summer, it's the time when your home's energy cost skyrocket. Use these 5 ideas to reevaluate your current practices, make your house more efficient and help find creative ways to save money.

- 1. Be smart about your thermostat** - Set your air conditioner thermostat at a temperature that is comfortable and try to keep it there. A good recommendation is around 78 degrees while your family is home and around 85 degrees when you are away from the house. And remember you will save about 7 percent from your bill for every degree over 78 degrees.
- 2. Keep hot air out** - You want to keep your inside as cool as possible so try to minimize the amount of heat that gets trapped indoors from your appliances. Avoid turning on incandescent lighting and try to use your outdoor grill or smaller countertop appliances instead of your oven/stove whenever possible. If you do cook inside, use the exhaust fan over the stove to get rid of hot air.
- 3. Think before using appliances** - If you have to run large appliances like the washer, dryer or dishwasher, do it at night and let things air dry. Wash all clothes in cold water and remember to clean out the lint tray after every load. But try to avoid using these things from noon to 6 p.m. Take lukewarm showers or baths rather than hot ones to reduce the amount of humid air in the bathroom.
- 4. Use free cooling methods** - Keep the blinds, shutters, drapes and windows closed during the day and open them in the evening. This doesn't cost anything and will help keep your home cooler. Also, ceiling and window fans are relatively inexpensive and can help reduce the temperature in your home.
- 5. Unplug everything** - Unplug all appliances and electronics when they are not in use and especially when your family is out of the house for an extended period of time. Plug all home electronics into power strips so you can easily turn them off during downtime.



5 OUTDOOR TRENDS TO REMEMBER THIS SUMMER

One of the best parts of the summer season is enjoying your outside space while the weather is warm. To ensure your yard is ready for anything you need it for including relaxing, dining or entertaining, here are 5 helpful trends.

- 1. Go green** - Going green in your garden includes using organic plants and recycled materials such as permeable pavers and crushed rock for better drainage, planting things that encourage insects and wildlife and using a reduced area of your lawn.
- 2. Utilize water features** - The sound of water has a calming effect and can help drown out noise from traffic and other disturbances. Keep it simple with water pots and rock gardens rather than larger water features, which take up more space and are difficult to keep up with.
- 3. Stock up on containers** - Pots, flower boxes and troughs filled with annuals, perennials, shrubs, etc. are a smart way to keep you garden blooming with minimal maintenance. The best choices are wood, clay, concrete or steel. Choose bright colors to add some pizzazz to small, narrow spaces like a driveway or patio.
- 4. Get comfortable furniture** - Choosing the right outdoor furniture is important because people spend more and more time outside especially in the summer months. It's a great place to dine, entertain or just relax, so pick weatherproof cushioned couches, sectionals or chairs.
- 5. Use space differently** - You don't need a ton of outdoor room to make the best use of it. Use the space you do have in a more creative way. For example, turn your driveway into a small patio or utilize your front yard so that you can connect better with your neighbors.

And keep checking the [Cook Blog](#) for more useful information through every season!

