

For seasonal residents there are definitely ideal settings that can help you maximize your savings while you're away from your winter home in Florida, while preventing moisture and other issues in your home.

## **Mold prevention\***

### **The right setting for manual thermostats**

Our research found that setting a manual thermostat to 80 degrees for homes and 77 for condos typically provides enough dehumidification to prevent mold. Since you also have a humidistat to control humidity, you have the flexibility to set the temperature higher at 88 degrees, while setting your humidistat's relative humidity, or RH, to 58 percent. This will help you save even more energy while still keeping the indoor humidity in a safe range.

### **Increased control with programmable thermostats**

For customers with programmable thermostats without humidity control (without a built-in humidistat), FPL recommends programming thermostats at 72 degrees for just two hours each morning before sunrise and at 88 degrees the rest of the time. This will prevent mold by removing moisture from the air during the cooler hours when RH is highest and your A/C runs most efficiently.

### **Even more efficiency and mold prevention**

The most energy-efficient way to help prevent mold from developing in vacant homes is to use stand-alone dehumidifiers. Use one dehumidifier for every 1,000 square feet and set the controls to 58 percent RH. Locate them by a sink or shower so water from the drainage tube can go down the drain.

### **Other tips for your home**

As an additional precaution, we recommend having your A/C ductwork checked for leaks by requesting an FPL duct test. Check for air leaks around doors and windows, too. Both are good ways to minimize the amount of moisture getting into your home.

## **Appliances**

**Water heater:** Unplug or turn off the circuit breaker to the hot water heater.

**Pool:** Set your pool pump to run no more than six hours a day.

Unplug appliances and electronics. For security reasons, you may want to place timers on indoor lamps.

**Refrigerators:** If you prefer to keep your refrigerator on, set it at its warmest setting. If you prefer to keep your refrigerator off, make sure to clean the interior with a solution of 1 tbsp. of baking soda in 1 quart of water, dry thoroughly and leave doors open. Remove all food from the freezer and refrigerator and leave the refrigerator door propped open. If you have an automatic ice maker, switch it to the "off" position.

## **Hurricane Preparedness**

Make arrangements for hurricane shutters to be installed prior to your departure if you will be gone for the duration of hurricane season, which runs from June to November.

## **Other**

Make sure all smoke alarms are working and have fresh batteries.

Ask someone to check on your property every two weeks while you're away.

Turn off the main water valve unless you have an automatic fire-sprinkler system. If you do, turn off the water valves to your washing machine, kitchen and bathroom sinks, dishwasher and toilets.

\*These tips are intended as guidelines to help you save energy and prevent mold growth, but your results may vary. Because each situation is unique, FPL cannot guarantee any particular result will be achieved by following these tips.