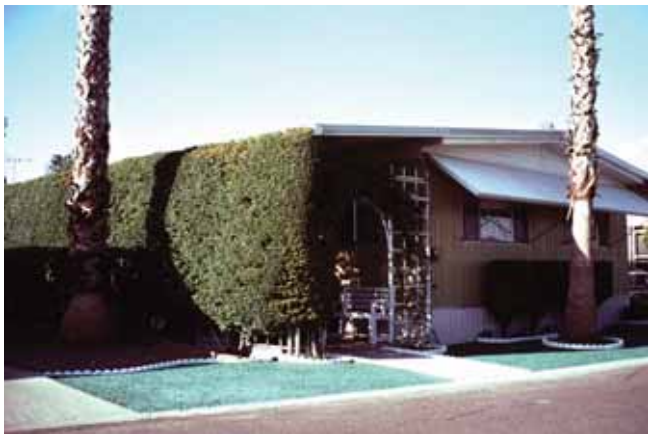
Tips for Keeping Mobile Homes COOL



Trellised vines provide effective shading. They protect the house from the sun and they create cool buffer zones near the home.

Shading and reflecting

Heat from the sun shining through windows and on roofs is a major reason for needing mechanical cooling systems. The most effective way to reduce solar heat is simply to block it, using shade trees, vines and trellises, metallized window films, awnings, sun screens and bright roof coatings.

Shade trees and trellised vines provide effective shading. They don't allow the sun's rays to reach the home and they create cool buffer zones near the home…

Effective shading can also be gained from reflective roof coatings, window films, interior window treatments, sun screens, awnings, low-e glass and reflective glass.

Reflective roofs and walls

Dark colors are inappropriate for walls and roofs in hot climates, because they absorb too much solar heat. The exterior walls and roof should be reflective to reflect unwanted solar heat.

If you repaint your exterior walls, choose white or a very light color.

When you reroof your home, choose a reflective roofing or roof coating. The most common reflective coatings are asphalt-based coatings, mixed with aluminum particles and mineral fibers. They reflect about 60 percent of solar heat hitting the roof. These reasonably-priced asphalt coatings vary in quality, mainly due to the amount of aluminum particles in each five-gallon container. The better coatings, which are more expensive, contain more aluminum and are more reflective. Be sure to stir this asphalt/aluminum coating vigorously and often during its application.

Bright white latex rubber coatings reflect up to 75 percent of solar heat. These latex coatings are more dependent on proper surface preparation than asphalt coatings. The roof surface must be clean and dry before application. Some latex coatings require a primer coat.

Most large hardware stores and lumber yards carry both asphalt and latex roof coatings. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for surface preparation and application.

Interior window treatments

Interior window treatments with reflective surfaces—either metallized or bright white—can block solar heat effectively. Opaque roller shades with white surfaces facing the exterior repel about 80 percent of the solar heat entering the window. These roller shades block most of the light and all the view.

White venetian blinds and white slim shades (a smaller-scale venetian blind) repel 40 to 60 percent of the solar heat entering the window. These venetian blinds and slim shades also block most of the light and view.

Shade treatments for single-pane glass

Percent of Solar Heat Blocked by Window Treatments

Sun Screen (indoors)	20–30%
Colored Venetian Blind	25–40%
Draperies (light colored)	40–55%
Opaque Rolling Shade (dark exterior)	45–50%
White Venetian Blind	45–50%
Window Films	40–75%
Light-Transmitting	60–70%
Rolling Shade Sun Screen (outdoors)	65–75%
Opaque Rolling Shade (white exterior)	75–80%
Aluminum Louvered	80–85%
Sun Screen Awnings	50–90%

If you want to retain some light or view, install roller shades made with metallized plastic window film. Like reflective films applied directly to glass, these metallized plastic roller shades can preserve the view and transmit some light, while blocking most of the heat.