

# THREE STEPS TO COST-EFFECTIVE APARTMENT AND CONDO HEAT PROTECTION

## Step 1: Plan ahead to keep cool

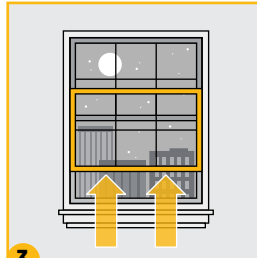
Do-it-yourself, \$0



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



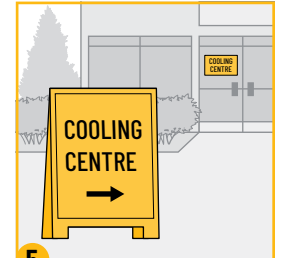
**2** Sign up for heat alerts on your phone (e.g., [WeatherCan](#)).



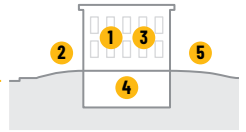
**3** Learn how to best use windows and doors to naturally ventilate your unit, particularly at night.



**4** Choose energy efficient lights and appliances that produce less "waste" heat.

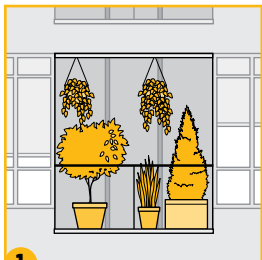


**5** Arrange to work or sleep in a cooler place (e.g., shared cooling space).

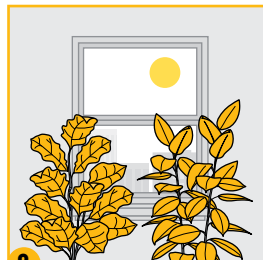


## Step 2: Complete simple upgrades

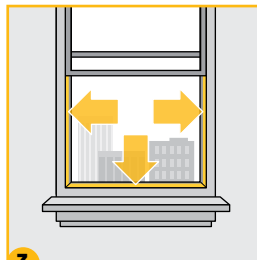
Do-it-yourself, for under \$250



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



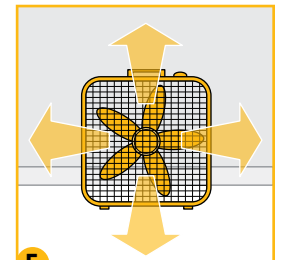
**2** Place tall plants with large leaves near light-facing windows.



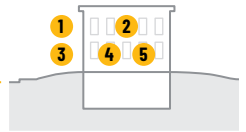
**3** Improve unit insulation and air tightness (e.g., draft strips).



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

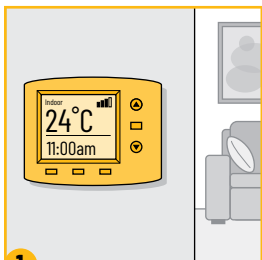


**5** Use portable or ceiling fans that increase air circulation.

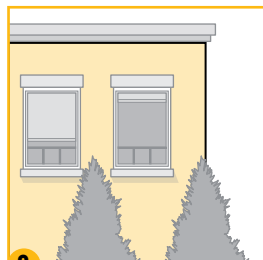


## Step 3: Complete more complex upgrades

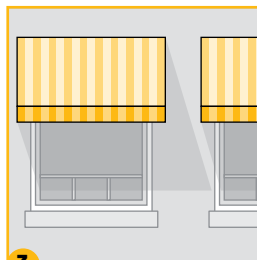
With building managers, for over \$250



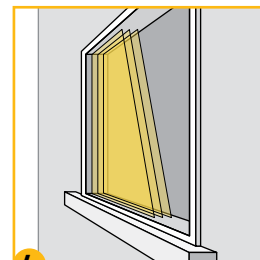
**1** Install temperature and humidity monitors or controls.



**2** Paint unit walls with white paint or light colours.



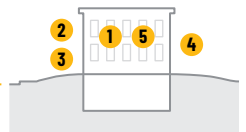
**3** Shade windows with outdoor shutters and awnings.



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



**5** Install and maintain a heat pump or air conditioning unit.



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

