

Cooling systems



Why it matters



Reduce energy costs: Cooling can account for 20–30% of building electricity use



Cut carbon emissions: Every degree saved reduces environmental impact.



Improve comfort and compliance: Correct settings maintain safe and comfortable conditions.



Support sustainability targets: Cuts unnecessary energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Checklist

- Are setpoints appropriate for the **space and season?** (Match with BMS specification).
- Is cooling only running during **occupied hours?**
- Are **windows or doors** open in cooled areas? (Close to prevent energy waste).
- Is heating running in the **same zone?** (Check for simultaneous heating/cooling).
- Are blinds being used to reduce **direct sunlight and overheating?**
- Are outdoor **condenser units** clear of debris, plants, or obstructions?
- Is cooling running in **unoccupied spaces?**

Common issues to watch for

- Cooling running **overnight or during weekends.**
- **Dirty or blocked filters** reducing efficiency.
- **Poor zoning** leading to overcooling in some areas.
- Review **setpoints and schedules** seasonally.
- Consider upgrading to **smart controls or variable speed drives** for long-term savings.

Quick wins and typical savings



- **Adjust setpoints slightly (+1°C):** Saving: Up to 10% energy reduction.
- **Encourage use of blinds and natural ventilation:** Saving: 2–5% cooling energy reduction.
- **Rectify or report simultaneous heating and cooling:** Saving: Eliminates major energy waste (can exceed 20% in affected zones).
- **Clean filters and maintain condenser units:** Saving: Improves efficiency by 5–10%.
- **Switch off cooling in unoccupied spaces:** Saving: £50–£150 per unit annually (depending on size and runtime).