

Fort Collins' September Cooling Clock: Why 2–7 p.m. Still Matters

The city's summer on-peak period lasts through Sept. 30, making the timing of ordinary cooling choices relevant for one more month.

FORT COLLINS, CO, UNITED STATES, September 9, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- September begins a seasonal transition in Fort Collins, but the residential electricity calendar does not change on Labor Day. Fort Collins Utilities keeps its summer weekday on-peak window in effect from 2 to 7 p.m. through Sept. 30.

That five-hour block can serve as a planning marker for households that have flexibility in when they cool, cook or run large appliances. It is not a reason to sacrifice health or necessary comfort, and it does not turn every long afternoon cycle into an equipment problem.

Morning: set the house up, not a rigid formula

A programmable or smart thermostat can carry a schedule from day to day. Before the on-peak window, residents can choose a comfortable setting, close shades where direct sun enters and avoid leaving doors or windows open while the AC is running.

Some homes may be able to cool modestly before 2 p.m. and then allow the temperature to rise slightly during the on-peak period. That is an option, not a universal prescription. Insulation, window exposure, equipment type, household health needs and personal comfort all affect whether it works.



FORT COLLINS' SEPTEMBER COOLING CLOCK:

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Large temperature swings can create discomfort without producing the intended result. A smaller adjustment that the household can live with is more useful than a drastic setback followed by a hard recovery.

From 2 to 7 p.m.: separate choices from necessities

During the weekday on-peak window, the clearest discretionary choices may be outside the thermostat: delaying laundry or dishwashing, limiting unnecessary door openings and reducing indoor heat from cooking when practical.

Cooling remains a health and comfort service. Older adults, young children, people with certain medical conditions and anyone who cannot stay safely cool should not follow a generalized schedule at the expense of well-being. Utility timing should inform a choice, not override a household need.

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The utility clock can guide flexible choices, but it cannot diagnose an air conditioner. A repeatable comfort problem outside a planned adjustment is the more useful signal to investigate.”

*Jesse White, General Manager
of Balance Point Heating,
Cooling & Plumbing*

day does not establish a failure, but a repeatable pattern gives a technician more useful information than a high bill alone.

\$99 HEATING/COOLING TUNE-UP



Restrictions may apply. Please call for more details.

Balance Point Heating, Cooling & Plumbing offering a \$99 Heating/Cooling Tune-Up for Fort Collins homeowners.

The clock also helps prevent a false diagnosis. If the thermostat was intentionally raised at 2 p.m., a warmer room later in the afternoon may reflect the schedule. If the system cannot maintain an established safe setting, airflow disappears, the unit shuts down unexpectedly or comfort remains poor outside the scheduled adjustment, the cause may require professional evaluation.

After 7 p.m.: watch the recovery pattern

When the on-peak window ends, return to a normal comfortable setting rather than demanding an extreme drop. Note whether the house recovers steadily and whether the system responds as expected. One difficult

The city utility's summer period ends Sept. 30. Residents should recheck the current schedule and their rate information before applying the same plan in October or in a future season.

For households comparing longer-term options, [AC installation and replacement](#) should begin with a home-specific assessment rather than a promise that new equipment will produce a particular bill reduction.

Households that decide a professional maintenance visit is appropriate may be eligible for Balance Point's \$99 Heating/Cooling Tune-Up.

Balance Point provides [air conditioning services for Fort Collins homeowners](#) who need help separating a scheduling issue from a cooling-system problem. To request service, call 970-345-3361.

About [Balance Point Heating, Cooling & Plumbing](#)

Balance Point Heating, Cooling & Plumbing serves Fort Collins and surrounding Northern Colorado communities with residential air-conditioning repair, maintenance, installation and replacement services.

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