

Contents

Acknowledgments	ii
Contents.....	iii
1. Introduction	2
How to use this book.....	3
For all pedants	4
How to pay for energy savings.....	4
Is global warming real?	5
What appliances cause greenhouse gases to be generated and where does the energy go?	7
3. The air conditioning enigma.....	10
4. Summary	12
Part 1 What should I do to keep warm and cool?	13
5. How to work out your needs	14
How large an area do you need to heat or cool?.....	14
What is your climate?.....	16
How important is aesthetics?.....	17
Comfort level.....	17
Purchase cost.....	17
Running cost.....	18
Noise levels	19
What restrictions does the house design place on you?.....	19
Is mains gas available?.....	19
Do you have any specific needs?.....	19
Summary	20
6. What are your options to keep cool?	21
Modify your home to reduce the <i>cooling load</i>	21
Dress to suit the temperature	21
Modify your activities to suit the temperature.....	21
Fans	21
Evaporative cooling.....	22
Types of evaporative coolers.....	24
Air conditioning	25
Subsidence tower.....	27
7. What are your options to keep warm?	28
Modify your home to reduce heat losses	28
Dress to suit the temperature	28
Modify your activities to suit the temperature.....	28
Wood heating	28
Gas heating.....	29
Reverse cycle air conditioning	30
In floor heating.....	31

Radiant ceiling heating.....	32
Storage heating.....	32
Other electric heaters.....	32
New windows.....	34
Solar air heaters.....	34
8. Summary.....	35
Part 2 Taming your home and behaviour.....	36
9. Insulation.....	37
10. Windows.....	38
11. Where to plant trees vines and shrubs?.....	41
12. Pergolas.....	42
13. Weatherstripping.....	43
14. Exhaust fans & dog doors.....	44
Exhaust fans.....	44
Dog doors.....	44
15. Taming your family's behaviour and your house.....	45
Dress to suit the temperature.....	45
Let your lifestyle fit the weather.....	47
Getting ready for summer.....	48
Taming your house in the heat (day to day actions).....	48
Autumn and Spring actions (day to day actions).....	50
Getting ready for winter.....	51
Taming your house in the cold (day to day actions).....	52
16. Summary.....	54
Part 3 Buying a heater or cooler.....	55
17. Choosing a refrigerative air conditioner.....	56
Purchase cost.....	56
Running cost.....	56
Noise levels.....	56
Reliability.....	57
The air conditioner brand.....	57
Do you need to use the 'SureCool' Refrigerative air-conditioner (reverse cycle or cooling only) selection program?.....	58
Location of outdoor unit.....	58
Summary.....	59
18. Choosing an evaporative cooler.....	60
What should I look for in a cooler?.....	60
Drain location.....	63
What is an up-duct?.....	63
19. Choosing a heater.....	64
Gas.....	64
Wood.....	64
Electric.....	65
Reverse cycle air conditioning.....	65

House Taming	iii
20. How to decide where and how to buy a heater or cooler.....	66
21. Choosing your contractor or installer.....	67
Collecting the information the contractor will need.....	67
22. Choose the best quote.....	69
The contractor.....	69
The air conditioner brand.....	69
The system offered is what you want.....	69
Is the air conditioner offered large enough to meet your needs?.....	70
Are the terms and conditions in the quote acceptable?.....	70
Finalising the contract.....	70
23. Summary.....	72
Part 4 Reducing energy use with other appliances.....	73
24. Hot water.....	74
25. Fridges and freezers.....	76
26. Cooking.....	78
27. Standby Losses.....	80
28. Lighting.....	81
Safety of compact fluorescent globes.....	82
Disposal of compact fluorescent globes.....	82
29. Clothes washing, drying and ironing.....	83
Clothes washing.....	83
Clothes drying.....	84
Ironing.....	86
30. Other appliances.....	88
31. Summary.....	90
Appendices.....	91
I. If you are building or renovating your home.....	91
Block selection.....	91
Orientation.....	92
Windows.....	93
Cross Ventilation.....	93
Insulation.....	94
Doors.....	94
Lighting.....	94
Roof colour.....	95
Room colours.....	96
What can we do to minimise energy losses through our floors?.....	96
II. Future options.....	98
Is Energy Storage the way of the future in air conditioning?.....	98
Can we design houses, which need no heating and cooling?.....	99
III. Getting the most from your refrigerative air conditioner.....	101
IV. Getting the most from your evaporative cooler.....	104
Opening windows.....	104
Adjusting the louvres.....	105

Ventilating without cooling (fan only mode)	105
Cleaning the cooler.....	105
V. How things work	106
How a (refrigerative) air conditioner works	106
How an evaporative cooler works	107
A Trombe wall	108
VI. Trouble shooting your air conditioner, evaporative cooler or heater....	110
Help, my heater or cooler isn't working at all!	110
Help, my heater or cooler is struggling!	110
The air conditioning troubleshooter	111
Resetting an air conditioner.....	115
The top ten refrigerative air-conditioner problems.....	116
The evaporative cooler troubleshooter	117
The heater troubleshooter.....	120
VII. Jargon Buster.....	123
VIII. Further Reading.....	129
IX. Index.....	131

2

1.