

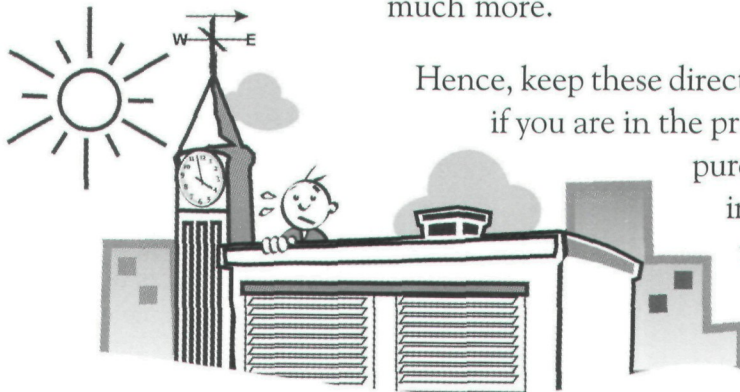


General

Does the orientation of my building affect airconditioning load?

Since heat from the sun is a major source of load on your airconditioner, the directional orientation of your building can significantly affect your airconditioning power bills.

Much of India lies between the Equator and the Tropic of Cancer. Hence heat from the sun enters your building essentially from the eastern and western directions. In the morning, your building is relatively cool, having been without the sun for almost 12 hours. Hence the heat of the morning (or eastern) sun is not felt as much. By noon, you can feel the heat more, since the building and surroundings are saturated with heat and start radiating the same. By 4 p.m. the heat load within your building reaches its peak. Hence, the afternoon (or western) sun seems a far greater source of heat than the morning sun. Rooms facing west (especially having lot of west glass), therefore, feel the heat much more.



Hence, keep these directional factors in mind particularly if you are in the process of considering a real-estate purchase. If, however, you are already in possession of your building, then utilise your space so as to keep the effect of western heat to the minimum.