



Family Plumbing & Heating

519 West 2nd Street
Gaylord, MI 49735

Family Plumbing & Heating

Family Times

Serving Your Family for Over 20 Years

FALL 2017

Air Duct Cleaning

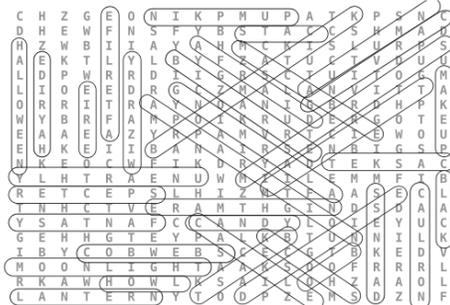
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The EPA does recommend duct cleaning if any of these factors are present:

- There is substantial visible mold growth present.
- Ducts are infested with vermin.
- Dust or debris are clogging the ducts.
- You can see dust or debris blowing into the home through supply registers (vents) in the home.

Cleaning should include all components of the system including coils and condenser parts of the HVAC system itself. The NADCA says the most effective way to clean air ducts and ventilation systems is to employ "source removal" methods of cleaning.

This requires a contractor to place the system under negative pressure through the use of a specialized, powerful vacuum. While the vacuum draws air through the system, devices are inserted into the ducts to dislodge any debris that might be stuck to interior surfaces. The debris can then travel down the ducts to the vacuum, which removes it from the system and the home. Although there are no proven health benefits, air duct cleaning can help improve indoor air quality and may help an HVAC system operate more efficiently.



Inspect Your Furnace

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Thermostat

Check the thermostat against a separate thermometer to ensure that it is reading the right temperature in the house. Raise the setting a few degrees to test if the heat kicks on.

If anything seems out of place or malfunctions, consult with an HVAC professional to make repairs.



Shannon Talley
Senior Service Technician

I would like to introduce you to Shannon Talley, an important member of the Family Plumbing and Heating team.

Shannon has 20 years of experience in

the industry and is approaching his 11th anniversary at Family as a Senior Service Technician. He has been a familiar face in many of your homes, providing assistance with your plumbing and heating needs. Shannon enjoys the variety of work, great people and the opportunity to gain knowledge that Family offers.

Shannon is originally from Pontiac, and spent 10 years in Harrison, Michigan where he played high school basketball. He enjoys time with his wife and three girls ages 12-17. His hobbies include golf and league bowling with his wife.

Shannon and the entire Family Plumbing and Heating team look forward to helping you with all of your plumbing and heating needs.

Kevin Westcott, Owner
Family Plumbing & Heating

Family Plumbing & Heating
989.732.8099

Inspect Your Furnace Before Winter Arrives

Fall is the perfect time to service the home furnace to ensure it is ready to withstand the demands of winter.

Furnace maintenance should be done on a regular basis. The best time to do so is in late summer or early fall, when you still have enough time to address any problems before it gets too cold outside.

HVAC systems malfunctions are typically caused by one of a handful of common problems. Inspecting certain components can help to guarantee a furnace is in working order when the first cold days arrive.

Filter and air intakes

Change the filter on your heating and cooling system. Check the air intakes

around the house for obstructions. Do not place furniture directly in front of intakes or venting. Many systems also have some sort of external vent or exhaust pipe. Check that the area is free of leaves, debris and animal nests.

Fuel

Some systems have an emergency shut-off switch that will halt fuel delivery to the unit. It's easy for these switches to be flipped accidentally if a furnace is located in a high-traffic area. Make sure the switch is in the "on" position. Vacuum the vent screens around the house to reduce the amount of dust blown around. Also, if the furnace exhausts into a flue, be sure that the exhaust route is clear so that carbon monoxide does not back up into the home.

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Create an Energy-Efficient Home For The Holidays

'Tis the season to be festive, and that usually means stringing up hundreds of twinkling lights to create a welcoming glow on dark winter nights. A typical strand of lights uses around 300 watts of electricity. Multiply those figures by the strings of lights you use and it's easy to see how quickly energy usage can add up. Fortunately, there are various ways to be energy efficient with holiday décor this season.

• Switch to LED lights. LED lights consume a fraction of the energy traditional incandescent bulbs do. While a standard string of 50 lights consumes 300 watts, LED sets only consume four watts.

• Use fiber-optic decorations. Fiber optic items are lit by one light. The illumination carries through the fiber optic cables to the entire decoration.

• Check light strands. Always inspect lights for frayed wires and any damage. Frayed lights are less efficient and pose a considerable safety risk.

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Heating Your Home More Efficiently

With colder weather right around the corner, many homeowners are once again giving thought to their home heating needs and if it is possible to heat their homes more efficiently.

The United States Department of Energy reports that more than half of the energy used in a typical home goes toward heating and cooling costs. With energy costs continually on the rise, many homeowners want to make the most of their heating systems and use the heat in the most efficient manner possible.

Some things to do to increase your heating efficiency:

Drafts could force heating systems to work harder. Check around doors and windows for drafts and seal any leaks you find. Also check around pipes leading to the outdoors. Caulking or foam insulation can remedy the situation.

Adding extra insulation in garages and attics also can help. The DOE says if insulation is less than R-30, the home probably can use more. If after increasing insulation your home still feels drafty, it may require additional insulation in the exterior walls.

Invest in a quality thermostat. Programmable thermostats allow homeowners to keep their homes cooler when unattended or during sleeping hours. The heat can be programmed to turn on or

increase in temperature when you are expected to return home after school or work.

Reverse the direction of ceiling fan blades. Having the blades spin clockwise will draw down the hot air that rises to the ceiling and allow it to better flow through the home.

Reuse oven heat. After cooking a meal in the oven, open the oven door and let the residual heat escape into the kitchen and the rest of the house. Note, it is not safe to heat a home with the oven, and the oven should be turned off before opening the door.

Add a little humidity. Moist air tends to hold heat better. Add some humidity to dry indoor air, particularly if the relative humidity of the home as measured with a hygrometer is below 25 percent. Houseplants and home aquariums can add some warm moisture to the air and reduce reliance on heat.

Limit use of exhaust fans. After showering or cooking, keep the exhaust fan on for as little time as possible so that warm air is not drawn out of the home.

Heating a home efficiently means reducing drafts, programming the thermostat and making the most of other ways to warm up.

Create an Energy-Efficient Home For The Holidays

Continued from Page 1

- Turn off ambient lighting. Christmas tree lights or the lights framing a picture window should be sufficient to light up a room. Keep lamps and overhead lighting off while the tree is lit to save money and energy.

- Lower the thermostat. When entertaining, turn the thermostat down a few degrees. Having extra people in your home will raise the temperature. Similarly, heat generated by the oven and other cooking appliances can warm up a home.

- Invest in rechargeable batteries. According to Energy Quest, 40 percent of all batteries are purchased during the holiday season. To power those many gifts and devices, use rechargeable batteries which can be used again and again.

- Smaller appliances use less energy. Put those toaster ovens, slow cookers and electric fryers to good use. Only use the oven if you are cooking a large meal.

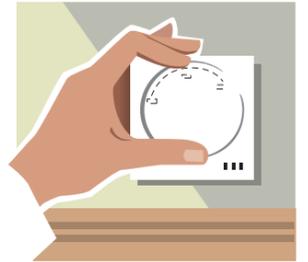
- Wait until the dishwasher is full. Pack in the dishes from holiday meals, and only run the dishwasher when it is full.

- Reuse items whenever possible. Many items around the house can be put to good use as decorations, holiday servers or gifts. Take inventory of what you have before you go out and purchase new decorations.

- Use a power strip and timer. Plug decorations into a power strip (be sure to follow the recommended power load for safety) and hook everything up to a timer so lights are not on when no one can see them.

- Enhance decorations. Use mirrors and reflective ornaments to give the appearance of more lights without actually adding more.

How Thermostats Save Money and Energy



Consider upgrading to a programmable thermostat to save energy, and save money.

The Alliance for Environmental Sustainability notes that for every degree they adjust their thermostats, homeowners save between 1 and 3 percent on their heating and cooling bills. Setting the thermostat slightly warmer in the summer and a notch or two cooler in the winter can save a considerable amount of energy and money. The United States Department of Energy says homeowners who make slight seasonal adjustments to their thermostats can save as much as 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs.

The best way to stay on top of temperature settings is to purchase a programmable thermostat. Many can store multiple daily settings, allowing you to further customize your heating and cooling schedules based on the time of day as well as the day of the week.

Some thermostats can be linked to a home's wireless system so that adjustments to the thermostat can be made when you are not at home. Consult with an HVAC expert to see which thermostat works best with your system. Some homes may benefit from a dual- or multi-zoned system, which allows you to adjust the temperature independently from other floors or wings of a home.

The location of the thermostat also is important. It should be placed to get the most accurate reading of the house. It should be on an interior wall away from direct sunlight, doorways, drafts, and windows, and should not be directly facing an air vent.

If you feel like your HVAC system is cycling on and off even after programming, you may need to call a technician, who can determine if there are any obstructions to the thermostat or if the unit is the appropriate size for your home.

Testimonial

Family Plumbing and Heating is an excellent company to work with. Very courteous, professional, well-groomed employees. The vehicles are also very clean and professional looking. Very easy company to work with, because they work with you.

They have an excellent program with the Family Plan they offer @ \$12.99 a month to help minimize needed repairs with annual inspections and discounts on repairs. I cannot say enough about this company, they go above and beyond to make sure the customer is taken care of! They have helped me very much and I would (and have) recommend them to everyone.

-Victoria Covitz

SPOOKTACULAR WORD SEARCH

C H Z G E O N I K P M U P A T K P S N C
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WORDS

AFRAID
 AFTERLIFE
 ALARMING
 APPARITION
 AUTUMN
 BEAST
 BIZARRE
 BLACK
 BOO
 BROOMSTICK
 CACKLE
 CANDY
 CARVING
 CASNET
 CATS
 CAULDRON
 COBWEBS
 DARKNESS
 DISGUISE
 EERIE
 FANTASY
 HALLOWEEN
 HAYRIDE
 HOWL
 LANTERN
 MACABRE
 MAKEUP
 MIDNIGHT
 MOONLIGHT
 MYSTERIOUS
 NIGHTMARE
 PUMPKIN
 SHOCK
 SPECTER
 UNEARTHLY
 WIZARDRY

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

Answer key on Page 4

Air Duct Cleaning

Although there is no proven evidence that trapped dust and other debris in air ducts can pose a risk to personal health, many people prefer to keep the ductwork clear in the event particles may be hazardous or contribute to asthma or other breathing difficulties. This cleaning can be done once a year or every couple of years, depending on personal preference.

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