



May Is Clean Air Month

May is Clean Air Month, so it's a perfect time to learn how indoor air can be made healthier for people with allergies, asthma or lung diseases. Providing clean and healthy air for your home is one of our top priorities, and we have the best equipment available to make your home healthy for your lungs.



Joe Lynch, Owner

People in the U.S. spend up to 90% of their time indoors, so it's more important than ever to ensure that your home heating and air conditioning system is working at top efficiency. Ask us about monitoring and analyzing the specific air quality in your home. With that important data, we can show you the best filtration and ventilation solutions for your home.

We can install whole-house ventilation systems that remove stale, contaminated air and replace it with clean, filtered air without introducing new pollutants from the outdoors. And we have a variety of air filters and cleaners to remove dust, dander, pollen and bacteria from your home.

Improving your home's air quality is just one of the reasons we're in business. Please call **WestAIR Heating & Cooling** so we can answer any questions you may have about the best type of indoor air-quality equipment to ensure your family's health and comfort.

Happy Spring!

Staying Cool And Dry — Inside

Indoor humidity is important to your health and your home. When the humidity is too high, mold and dust mites thrive, which can trigger allergic reactions, itching, sneezing and coughing. Too much moisture can also cause condensation buildup in walls, leading to rot or attracting bugs such as termites.

During the summer, it's best to keep your home's humidity level at 30-50% to make you feel cooler. Here are some tips to help remove excess humidity:

- Use exhaust fans in the bathroom, kitchen and laundry room
- Install a whole-house dehumidifier or use a room dehumidifier
- Ensure your A/C is the proper size for your home, to increase efficiency and help reduce indoor humidity.

You can count on us for expert installation and maintenance of your home's comfort system. Call **WestAIR** at **763-498-8071** today!

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Spring 2020

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The Age-Old Question: Repair Or Replace?

The last thing any homeowner wants to hear is that their cooling system won't make it through another summer. Ignoring the signs of an aging and failing AC system may lead to the unpleasant experience of not having cooling when you need it, and expensive repair costs. Purchasing a new high-efficiency system can actually be more cost-effective than continuing to repair your old, inefficient one. Consider the following to help decide if it's best to repair or replace your AC system.

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How long should a cooling system last? Life expectancy depends on the amount of cooling run time and how often the system receives preventive maintenance. In some parts of the country, the average residential cooling system's run time is as much as 2,500 hours per year. So, after around 30,000 hours of cooling run time (12 years), your AC system will start to wear out, and you might consider replacement versus repair(s). Proper and consistent preventive maintenance most often extends the life of an AC system.

Indoor air quality and system operation? An out-of-warranty system that requires frequent repairs may be more than an expensive nuisance — it could also be unhealthy, and in some instances even unsafe. Old dirty indoor coils, dirty burners and cracked heat exchangers (if you have gas heat) will definitely affect the quality of the air you breathe and will affect proper system operation.

How long do you plan on being in your home? If you're a short-timer in your home, you may be tempted to limp by and let the next owner worry about replacing the old HVAC system. But another strategy would be to replace that old system with high-efficiency equipment and add to the sale price of your home. This way, you get the advantage of enjoying the enhanced comfort and efficiency of new equipment while still in the house.

If you think it may be time to replace your system, make an appointment for a system check-up before hot weather comes knocking. By evaluating the current condition of your equipment, we can help make your decision a little easier. ■



Has your air conditioner been struggling to keep you cool? It may be time to consider replacing it with a new high-efficiency system.

Ceiling Fans For Year-Round Savings

If you've been using ceiling fans to help circulate heat in your home this past winter, don't forget to flip the switch when it's time to make your home feel cooler.

During colder months, ceiling fans can effectively move trapped heat. When blades are set to move in a clockwise rotation at low speed, the fan creates a gentle updraft that recirculates heat down into a room.

In warmer months, set your ceiling fan so the blades move in a counter-clockwise rotation. The airflow directly underneath the ceiling fan will then push down, creating a breeze or "windchill" effect that cools the skin.

As we all look for ways to cut household heating and cooling costs, it pays to use every tool available to reduce our energy consumption — and also keep us comfortable. ■



Set the fan direction to **DOWN** for summer and **UP** for winter.

Tip Maintain good air flow by vacuuming/cleaning your air vents regularly. And don't let anything like furniture or curtains block vents.

Enjoy Fresh Indoor Air

According to the EPA, the air inside the average home is up to five times more polluted than the air outside. If someone in your home suffers from allergies or asthma, you already know the negative impact that polluted air can have. Those harmful particles could also include airborne viruses, leading to an increased likelihood of colds and flu. You can reduce indoor air pollution with a whole-home air purifier.

A whole-home air purifier is installed as part of a central heating and cooling system to effectively remove airborne pollutants. Air runs through the filter media and clean air is delivered in every room, silently and efficiently.

Look to us to help you select the air purifier that works in your home — and to keep your family breathing easy. ■



A whole-home air purifier can help reduce allergy triggers and airborne viruses.

Question & Answer



What should I have on hand in case of a power outage?

It takes only one power outage experience to understand just how much we depend on electricity, and the difficulty of unexpectedly living without it. It's best to be prepared to ensure you and your family's safety and comfort, so keep these items on hand:

- Flashlights
- Fully charged cell phone and a car charger
- Extra batteries
- Medications (about a 7 to 14-day supply)
- Battery-powered radio
- Non-perishable foods
- Water
- Blankets

If a storm is on its way, you should have at least half a tank of gas in your car in the event a power outage affects service to gas stations. And unplug appliances so they won't be damaged by a power surge. If you use a home generator, only operate it outdoors in a well-ventilated area, and at least 20 feet away from windows. ■

Earth & Atmosphere

Rainbows

Rainbows have been the subject of folklore throughout the ages. And more than Mother Nature's other spectacles, rainbows have also captured the imagination of writers, dreamers, even children. From the leprechaun's promised pot of gold to the magical Land of Oz waiting on the other side, rainbows have played a part in many fantasies. But what causes their somewhat rare and always glorious appearance?

Several elements need to be in place to cause a rainbow to occur: water, sun and the proper viewing angle. The convergence of these elements results in our ability to view the refraction, or bending, of sunlight through raindrops. Only when the sun is at your back, and the angle of reflection is about 40 degrees, is a rainbow visible. Since the viewing angle is so important, most rainbows appear early or late in the day when the sun is closer to the horizon.

Wherever you happen to find your next rainbow, consider it a spectacular reminder of Earth's beauty. ■



Rainbows form when sunlight and raindrops combine to create a prism of colored light.