



Enjoy Indoor Summertime Fun

Summer is the perfect season for family fun. Time spent relaxing at home with loved ones during family reunions, birthday parties and barbecues is the perfect way to create memories that will last a lifetime. But with so much to plan and do, don't forget about the most important ingredient for an enjoyable summer — a comfortable home.



Joe Lynch, Owner

Our entire team at **WestAIR Heating & Cooling** wants to thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your enjoyment of the season. Some of the most cherished family moments take place during the summer months, but we know that nothing stops the fun more quickly than a broken air conditioner. By calling us for your maintenance and repair needs, you're letting us give something very special — the peace of mind that can only come from a reliably cool home.

Give us a call today at **763-498-8071**, so you can enjoy a worry-free, comfortable home all summer long.

Sincerely,

Joe Lynch

TLC For Outdoor Equipment

Almost all residential central air conditioning systems rely on an outdoor condenser unit. While it's not the most attractive possession you own, it's one of the most valuable, and it's important to protect it from the elements.

Many people screen their air conditioners with plants and shrubs. It may look better to you, but over time the plants can grow too close to the unit, choking off the airflow and increasing your energy bills. Air conditioners need intake and exhaust air to operate efficiently, and that means plants and shrubs should be no closer than 18" from your outdoor unit.

With your A/C powered off, wash your unit down occasionally, and carefully remove any leaves and debris that may have fallen inside. Trim away weeds and climbing vines by hand. It's important to remove vines, since they can wrap themselves around the internal components and can damage them. Don't use a mower or weed eater close to the air conditioner as it might damage the unit or the power supply leading to it.

We're always here to help you maintain your heating and cooling equipment for peak performance. Whenever you have questions about maintenance and repairs, give **WestAIR Heating & Cooling** a call at **763-498-8071**.

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Changing SEASONS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF WESTAIR



Summer 2023

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**See Back for
Special Offers!**

Get In Sync With Your Home Comfort

Many homeowners take special care to select the right furnishings, accessories, lighting and more. But as they say, appearances are only skin deep. True home comfort comes with a perfectly balanced indoor environment, one where the conditioned air is clean, healthy and at just the right temperature every season. To get, or keep, your home comfort in sync, consider the following:

Replace or upgrade your air filter.
Make it a habit to change your air filters

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on a regular basis to reduce the amount of dust and allergens inside your home. They may need to be changed more often if you have pets.

Consider installing a smart thermostat. A smart thermostat not only manages indoor temperatures set to your specific needs and schedule, you'll be able to adjust it when you're away from home. You'll save money by not wasting energy to cool your home when it's not needed. We can make sure you select a thermostat that's compatible with your current system and that it's installed properly.

Proper maintenance. A well-maintained HVAC system will operate more efficiently and make you feel more comfortable on the hottest days of the year. If you already know your cooling system is operating on borrowed time, think about the frequency of repairs, the age of the equipment and how much you're paying in monthly energy bills. It may just be time for a replacement.

When it's time to replace, consider high efficiency. High-efficiency home comfort systems are equipped with state-of-the-art technology that can provide quiet, uniform temperatures. Consider the SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) rating when shopping for a new cooling system. The higher the SEER, the less energy used to cool your home, which can mean lower cooling bills along with improved comfort for your family.

Whether it's questions about upgrading your air filter, maintenance, or repairing or replacing your HVAC system, we're here for you. We're



We can make sure your home cooling system is working properly when its time to head indoors.

Clean Air Filters Are A Must!

Changing your air filter may not sound like that big a deal, but we can assure you that failure to do so will negatively impact your home cooling experience. If your heating and cooling systems share an air handler, the filter might get changed twice a year, but that's still not enough. Check your filter every month during heavy use months, and at a minimum change it every 3 months. Your personal use will determine how frequently your air filter will have to be changed, but only once or twice a year won't do it.

If an air filter isn't changed regularly, it can become clogged. When this happens, you may find your system is struggling to distribute cooled air throughout your home. This struggle will lead to increased energy costs, even as your system is declining in its overall performance quality. Your indoor air quality may suffer as well, and you risk allowing your evaporator coil to ice over, due to decreased airflow. ■



A clean air filter prevents dust and dirt from building up in your system. Buildup could lead to early system failure.



Leaving windows open when the A/C is on isn't a good idea. Cooled air will escape and warm, unfiltered air will come in. The HVAC system won't work as it's designed and could even cause equipment failure.

Go For The Smart Upgrade

Tired of high cooling or heating bills? A smart thermostat, which is controlled with a phone, tablet, smart speaker or other internet-connected device, can be a worthwhile upgrade for many HVAC systems. You can trim your energy usage and still keep your home comfortable.

With a smart thermostat, it's easy to program indoor temperatures to match your schedule. You can also adjust it to start cooling your home just before family is scheduled to arrive. These features allow you to use less energy by setting the temperature a bit higher when nobody's home. You'll also have the convenience of adjusting the thermostat remotely — whether you're on the couch or on vacation.

Let us help you choose the thermostat that's right for your HVAC system, and your specific needs. ■



If you're having new cooling equipment installed, now is the time to upgrade your thermostat.

Earth & Atmosphere

Star Light, Star Bright

The summer sky offers many stargazing opportunities, particularly when viewing away from city lights. These are some of our solar system's brightest objects.

The sun: No surprise here. Gazing at the sun directly without special protective filters can cause blindness.

The moon: As you can imagine, it's brightest in its full moon phase.

Venus: The closest planet to Earth, it can shine bright enough to be seen in daylight.

Mars: The 2nd-closest planet to Earth, it reaches maximum brightness about every two years as it moves around the sun.

Jupiter: It shines nearly as bright as Mars, when Mars is at its peak.

Mercury: Only seen just before sunrise or shortly after sunset, Mercury may not seem as bright as other objects since it can't be viewed against a nice dark sky.

Saturn: It's often visible deep into the night, when its brightness contrasts with the depths of a dark night sky. ■



The sun increases and decreases in activity in a cycle lasting 11 years, but these changes aren't strong enough to have a long-term influence on Earth's climate system. The sun is currently in a Solar Maximum cycle, with the peak expected around 2025.

Question & Answer



Never leave your pet alone in a parked vehicle. Not only can it lead to fatal heat stroke, it's illegal in several states.

How can I be sure my pets are safe this summer?

We all enjoy time outdoors with our furry companions, but summer months can often spell danger. Take these simple precautions to keep your pet safe:

- Pets can get dehydrated quickly, so make sure to give them plenty of fresh, clean water and a shady place to rest when it's hot or humid outdoors.
- Know the symptoms of overheating in pets: excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor or even collapse.
- Don't leave pets unsupervised around a pool. Make sure they wear flotation devices when on boats.
- Commonly used lawn and garden insecticides can be harmful to cats and dogs if ingested, so keep them out of reach. ■