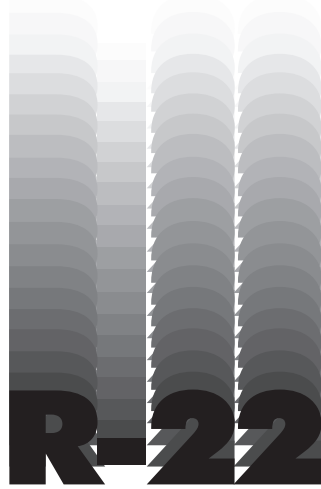


The truth about Freon (R-22) and what it means for you

2010 marks another major milestone in the reduction of HCFC refrigerants, which includes the best known and most widely used refrigerant of the last century, R-22, commonly called Freon. Many industrialized countries, including the United States, are following guidelines set forth by the Montréal Protocol to reduce chlorine-based refrigerants, which are believed to cause global warming. Although new evidence suggests that HCFC refrigerants such as Freon have a minimal impact on global warming, the agreement has long since been signed and reduction timelines in production and use continue to this day.

Beginning in 2010, there are two important changes that homeowners should be aware of. First, as of January 1, 2010, equipment manufacturers of residential cooling units are no longer able to produce Freon bearing units (air conditioners and heat pumps). Units produced up until the end of 2009 may still legally be purchased and installed by certified contractors and their

technicians. Replacement parts will remain available for servicing these machines for some period of time not yet determined (availability will depend



on each individual manufacturer and their desire to produce replacement parts).

Second, in 2010 we will see a drastic reduction in the production of new R-22 refrigerant. The industry is now under a 10-year window for the production of new Freon, which will be banned

completely in 2020. Recycled refrigerant will be available for use until the year 2030. As production cuts are made we will see the price of Freon continue to rise, as it has done for at least the last 5 years.

What does this all mean to you? Most importantly, if your air conditioner is older and has a history of leaking refrigerant, you may want to consider replacing it rather than just pumping expensive refrigerant into the system (and into the environment). With the rebates and tax credits available, there really hasn't been a better time to replace an old unit. If your air conditioner or heat pump is fairly new, proper maintenance will help to reduce the likelihood of expensive failures, including developing refrigerant leaks. Last but not least, don't fall victim to a technician or company who says you can't service a Freon bearing unit. This is absolutely not the truth. For further information please contact any of our helpful and knowledgeable staff at 846-0434.

Appel Heating & Air Conditioning Company



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Visit our website at www.appelheat.com

We would like your suggestions

If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions regarding our newsletter or any of our products or services, we would like to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us by telephone, fax, or email.



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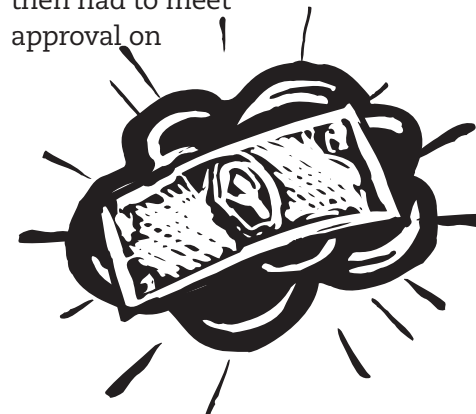


Home comfort news for the customers of Appel Heating & Air Conditioning

Get more bang for your cooling buck with up to \$2,500 in state and federal tax credits and rebates

On February 1, 2010 the new State Rebate Program, also known as IHIP (Indiana Heating & Air Conditioning Incentive Program), went into effect, giving homeowners the chance to save up to an additional \$500 off qualifying heating and cooling purchases made while funds last. This is in addition to the Federal Tax Credit of up to \$1500, the State Tax Credit of \$100, and local utility rebates of up to \$400. There really has never been a better opportunity to buy home heating and cooling equipment at such a reduced cost.

IHIP is part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009. Each state created its own rebate program which then had to meet approval on



the Federal level. 6.1 MILLION DOLLARS were allocated to the program for Hoosiers. Unlike the Federal and State Tax Credits, once the funds for the IHIP program are extinguished, the program is over. Current projections on remaining funds suggest a timetable of June or perhaps July before funds run out. Obviously the time to act is now.

Appel Heating & Air Conditioning is adding a rebate of up to \$500 off a qualifying cooling unit (air conditioner or heat pump) or up to \$1000 off a qualifying system (heating and cooling unit purchased together). In addition, some of our manufacturers are offering rebate incentives on top of all of the programs previously mentioned. Please contact Deb in our office today to obtain your free home heating and cooling cost analysis and to see how much you can save not only on your utility bills but also off a new heating and cooling system. Deb can be reached at 846-0434, extension 20. Don't forget: once the IHIP funds run out you've missed your opportunity to take advantage of this one time only offer.

Squeeze even more energy savings out of your A/C with these tips

- Make sure your new air conditioner is properly maintained. Research shows that, without annual maintenance, air conditioners lose a substantial amount of efficiency, break down more often, and wear out a lot faster than they should. To get the most out of your investment in a new cooling system, treat it to an annual clean-and-check.
- Sign up for our maintenance agreement, which guarantees you superior, hassle-free service.
- Get your duct work tightened up. Studies show that most duct work has many leaks (and even gaping holes in some cases). Reducing leaks by as little as 30% can save as much as 15% off your annual air conditioning bill, and about 12% off your heating bill. Repairing leaks is not a do-it-yourself job. Professional contractors have the right tools and sealants to do the job, and once it's done, we can rebalance the airflow in the duct work.

Five sure-fire ways to save energy and water this summer

When it gets hot outside, we use a lot more water and electricity to keep ourselves cool and comfortable and our yards and gardens looking fresh. This puts a huge burden on these utilities, especially as summer peaks. The cost also adds up pretty quickly. The answer? Five easy and effective ways to save energy, water, and money in the months ahead.

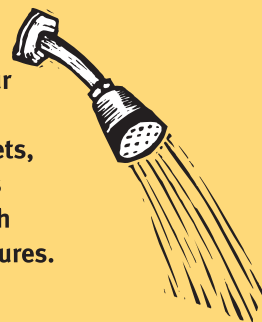
1 Have your air conditioning and plumbing systems serviced annually, so these important systems function cost effectively and any potential problems are caught early before they become big, expensive repairs.

2 To keep your home cool and dry, tighten up the envelope of your home by caulking exterior leaks and replacing weather stripping around doors and windows. Don't forget possible air leaks around electrical wires and pipes that penetrate exterior walls.

3 Have your duct work professionally inspected and sealed by a qualified HVAC technician

4 Place a rain barrel at far corners of your yard for handy watering.

5 Have your regular toilets, faucets, and showers replaced with low-flow fixtures.



A Bright Idea

According to the Department of Energy, if just one room in every U.S. home used compact fluorescent lighting, the change would keep 1 trillion pounds of greenhouse gases out of our environment.

Did you know?

The primary source of greenhouse gases is electricity generation, not cars. Every step that you take to save electricity will help the environment as well as your wallet.

Are sneaky leaks draining your wallet?

If you live in a typical household, at least 14% of the water that comes into your home is lost through plumbing leaks. To put this in perspective, almost the same amount of water—about 17% is used for showers. Small leaks usually become big leaks, so it is worth it to find them and repair them. The signs of a plumbing leak include a toilet that runs when it's not in use, higher than normal water bills, sounds of running water in the plumbing pipes when water isn't being used, musty odors or mold growth, and stains on drywall or ceilings.

You can monitor your home for plumbing leaks by periodically turning off all appliances that use water and then reading your water meter. Wait at least 15 minutes and read the meter again. If the reading has changed, you probably have a leak. The most likely culprit is a leaky toilet tank. To check for a tank leak, mix a few drops of dark food coloring into the tank water and wait half an



hour without flushing. If there is colored water in the bowl, you've got a leak.

If you can't find the leak, call a professional plumber. They can locate underground or otherwise hidden leaks using special audio-visual equipment, and when they do find a leak, they have the right tools and equipment to make a lasting repair.



How to manage water damage

Water damage to your home can happen for all kinds of unexpected reasons: a burst water heater, a major plumbing leak, or a storm. Water is most damaging to the materials found in treasured household items such as photographs, linens, furniture, and books. To save these items you will need to act fast.

Before you enter the area of the flood, ensure there are no hazards, such as sewage or wet electrical appliances. Remove

any items that are about to become wet before you tackle soaked items.

Quickly create a dry, cool environment with good air circulation, because mold and mildew will start to grow within 48 hours. Use fans for air circulation and dehumidifiers to reduce the relative humidity level below 40%.



Household floods are often caused by plumbing problems, such as a failing hot water heater, a burst washing machine hose, a clogged toilet, or over-sudsing in the dishwasher or clothes washer (usually because too much soap was added). If any of these things happen, the first thing to do is turn off the water to the fixture using the fixture's shut-off valve. If you don't know where the fixture's shut-off valve is, then turn off the main water shut-off valve for the house and call a professional plumber for help.

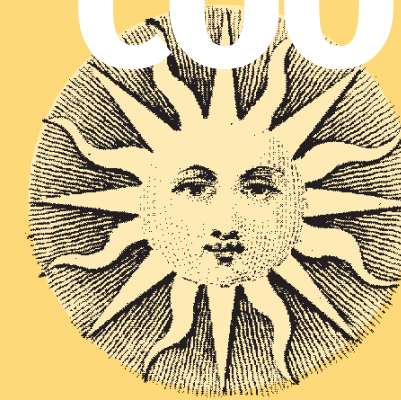
Rescue the items that are most important to you, starting with those that are driest and least damaged.

If photographs have become stuck together or have been dirtied, rinse them in clean, cold water and then dry them on paper towels. Do not blot or wipe them.

Electronic equipment that has been soaked may be unsafe to turn on. You may need to have a professional check it first, depending on the kind of equipment it is.

For damaged books, put paper towels between the pages, especially if they are glossy. If you cannot get to small items within 48 hours, freeze them until you have time to dry them properly.

The rules of COOL



How to stay safe and comfortable when the hot weather hits

- Use major heat-producing appliances (e.g., dishwashers, clothes washers, dryers, and stoves) during the cooler parts of the day or at night.

- Ditto for activities that produce humidity, including hot showers, baths, and cooking. Use local exhaust fans to vent hot, humid air in the kitchen or bathroom for a few minutes.

- Don't place heat sources—such as lamps or TV sets—near the thermostat. The thermostat will sense the heat and call for more cooling than is needed.

- Drink fluids throughout the day (water is best), but avoid caffeine-based drinks or alcohol.

- Eat several small meals throughout the day and avoid large amounts of protein.

- Keep curtains or blinds drawn during the hottest part of the day and turn off incandescent lights when not in use.