



*Appel Heating & Air
Conditioning Company*

530 SOUTH RANGE LINE ROAD
CARMEL, INDIANA 46032-2184

Home Comfort connection

Spring 2011

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

Visit our new website and win dinner for two!

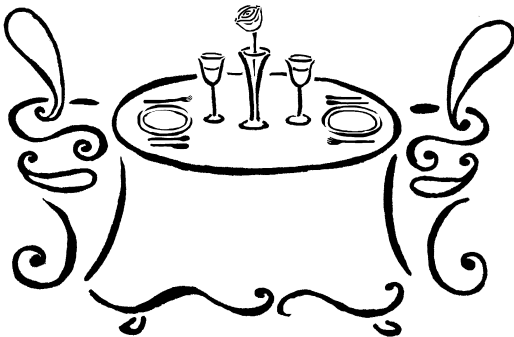
After three long years of a project in the making all of us here at Appel are excited to announce the launch of our new website. Same address as always, www.appelheat.com, but lots of new content, including pictures of our entire staff,

information on current products, and even helpful tips on what to check before you call us with a problem. How's that for customer service?

To celebrate this historical event, Appel is offering you the chance to **win dinner for two** to your favorite restaurant! Just visit the new website, www.appelheat.com, and click on the "Dinner for Two" box on the homepage. One winner will be chosen randomly from all the entrants on June 10, 2011 and notified immediately.

Continue to check back to the website often as we will also be

adding new video content soon. Look for helpful video tips such as "How to Change my Filter", "Programming my Pesky Thermostat", and "What do you mean my Coil is frozen", plus customer testimonials and a history of our family business.



Go green this spring with pink?

Spring is the season to think green; green grass, green leaves, and green air conditioners. No, we don't literally mean green air conditioners; we mean environmentally friendly air conditioners using the new Puron or R-410A refrigerant (this refrigerant comes in pretty pink jugs).

If you need to add refrigerant to your old air conditioner every year

the cooling system has a leak. The leaked refrigerant called Freon or R-22 contains chlorine gas which destroys ozone and harms the environment.

Also, the older your air conditioner is the more electricity it consumes and the more it costs you to operate. So now is the time to spring into action, take advantage of our spring sale on air conditioners and go green this spring with pink!

Earn easy money with Ben Bucks

Just as a quick reminder, if you refer a friend, family member, or co-worker to us and they purchase a heating or cooling unit from us we will send you a Ben Bucks reward. The first referral earns you **\$100**, the second referral earns you **\$200**, and every referral after that earns you **\$300**. Just our way of saying thanks for your kind words.



What's in your bottled water?

Each year, Americans alone spend approximately \$7 billion on bottled water at an average cost of more than \$1 a bottle. Bottled water is convenient, but is it really better than tap water? In 1999, the National Resources Defense Council published the results of a four-year study, in which they concluded that "An estimated 25 percent or more of bottled water is really just tap water in a bottle—sometimes further treated, sometimes not." Furthermore, tap water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency under strict standards, while bottled water, because it is classed as a "food", is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration under more relaxed standards. The best way to ensure that you are drinking clean, pure water is to have your plumbing contractor install a home water filtration system for your own tap water. You'll have fresh, great-tasting water at a fraction of the cost of bottled water. And since all of those plastic bottles add up to a lot of pollution, you'll help cut back on that, too.

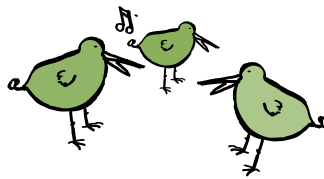


FYI

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.

Spring cleaning's for the birds!

Forget about spring cleaning
If you don't have time for a big spring cleaning extravaganza, don't sweat it. According to modern cleaning guru Marla Cilley of the FlyLady.net (www.flylady.net), with just 20 minutes a day of cleaning time, you can easily keep your home tidy and hygienic. Two tested secrets to quick cleaning include wiping down kitchen and bathroom surfaces each day and putting things away after use.



Did you know?

Most people leave the faucet running while brushing their teeth. But did you know that this can waste over 2 gallons a minute, or 6,500 gallons of water per family, per year? (Think of it this way: it's like flushing the toilet the whole time you're using it.)



To Prevent A Garbage Disposer Breakdown,

DON'T:

1 Fill disposer with a lot of vegetable peels all at once. Instead, turn the water and disposer on first, and then feed the peels gradually

2 Grind extremely fibrous materials, such as corn husks

3 Pour grease or fat down your disposer or any other drain. It can build up in pipes and cause drain blockages. Put grease in a jar or can and dispose in the trash

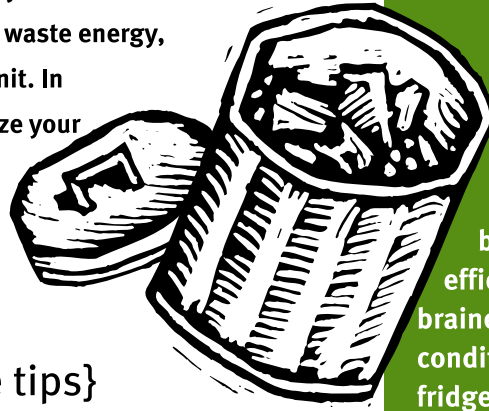
4 Turn off disposer until grinding is completed

Take 5 minutes for safety this spring...

...Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms (you should have one of each on every level of your house, preferably near bedrooms)

...Assemble an emergency kit that includes batteries, candles, matches, a flashlight (preferably the dynamo variety that winds up rather than using batteries), canned foods, and bottled water

SAVE water, energy, and money by choosing an appliance that is the right size. If your water heater is too small, you'll run out of hot water. If your air conditioner is too big, you'll waste energy, be less comfortable, and shorten the life of the unit. In general, it's best to let a professional help you size your cooling equipment or appliances.



Keep it or Can it?

When your dishwasher dies or your clothes dryer kicks the bucket, buying a new, high-efficiency replacement is a no-brainer. But what if that old air conditioner (or water heater or fridge) still has a little life left in it? It makes sense (and cents) to replace some older appliances sooner rather than later. Here's how to decide.

Water heaters

If your heater is more than 10 years old or so, it's probably time to replace it with a more energy-efficient model. But saving energy isn't the only reason to replace an older water heater: as your aging tank deteriorates, the risk of a flood increases. The signs that your water heater is beginning to fail include leakage, rusting, and rumbling noises coming from the tank. If you notice these symptoms, it is wise to shop for a replacement.

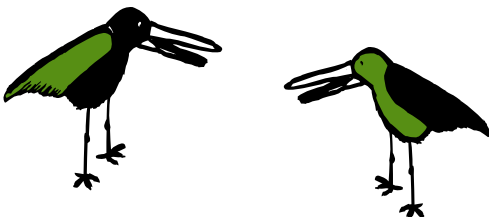
Air Conditioners

Central air Conditioners have come a long way in the last few years, with the newest models being much more energy efficient than models made just 5 years ago. In general, if your air conditioner is more than 10 years old, your cooling bills are going up, and you are less comfortable, then it's definitely time to shop for a new cooling system.

Cooltalk

{Stay cool this summer with these tips}

- Have your air conditioner cleaned and checked to ensure that it operates at top efficiency this summer. This will also help prevent costly repairs and improve comfort.
- Keep freezers full, because frozen food serves as a thermal stabilizer that reduces the amount of cycling. If you don't have a lot of food in the freezer, then freeze containers of water to fill up the space. As a bonus, these ready-made ice blocks will be handy for coolers.
- Use indoor drying racks or outdoor clotheslines to dry clothes. If hanging whole loads is not practical, then just hang the heavy items, such as jeans, towels, and sweaters.
- Install weatherstripping around doors and windows to help keep cool, conditioned air from leaking outside.
- Get your leaky duct work repaired, especially if it goes through unconditioned spaces like an attic or crawl space. You'll save conditioned air from being wasted.
- 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.
- 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.
- Run cool water over your wrists or put a cool compress on the back of your neck for a quick cool-down.
- Take a brief, cool shower at night just before bed.
- Keep curtains or blinds drawn during the hottest part of the day and turn off incandescent lights when not in use.



To do (or not) to do it yourself

With all of the home improvement magazines and television shows out there, it's hard to imagine that there is anything an industrious homeowner can't or shouldn't do. Nevertheless, installing home comfort systems—heating, air conditioning, and air quality—should be left to a qualified professional. Tinkering with these systems yourself could compromise your family's safety and comfort, and may wind up costing you in wasted energy and expensive repair bills.

For example, professional contractor has the knowledge and experience to size a new air conditioner correctly for your house, which is necessary to ensure that your air conditioner runs at peak performance, keeps you comfortable, and doesn't break down or wear out sooner than it should. A good contractor will also ensure that the air conditioner functions properly with any other existing equipment, like the furnace.

When an air conditioner doesn't seem to be cooling as well as it should be, many homeowners assume the refrigerant is leaking and unwisely try to top it up themselves. However, topping up the refrigerant without repairing the leak is illegal in most areas and can carry a heavy fine. And the problem may not even be a leak.

Professional contractors employ licensed, trained technicians who have the right tools and experience to test for leaks and repair them if necessary. If the problem turns out to be a dirty coil, for example, they can clean it without damaging delicate parts.

For these reasons, it's always best to have a pro service your air conditioning system, and preferably a contractor who is already familiar with your home and the equipment in it. If your air conditioner hasn't been serviced this year, please call us. We can make sure your air conditioner is performing at its best.

Attention Do-It-Yourselfers

Here are five things that you can—and should—do to keep your air conditioning system running well.

1. Replace furnace filters regularly: good airflow is essential for your air conditioner to operate properly.
2. Keep clutter away from the outside air conditioning unit.
3. Plant deciduous trees on the south side of the house, and evergreen trees on the north side.
4. Have your duct work checked for leaks and get them repaired if necessary.
5. Choose a comfortable setting on the thermostat and try to leave it there for the air conditioning season. Making frequent adjustments by more than a degree or two can be hard on your air conditioner.

Appel Heating & Air Conditioning Company



530 SOUTH RANGE LINE ROAD
CARMEL, INDIANA 46032-2184

317-846-0434

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.