

Del's

HOME COMFORT REPORT

Summer 2020



Three Troubleshooting Steps to Take Before Calling Your HVAC Contractor

When your air conditioner or heater goes out, you may think you need to call your HVAC contractor right away. Sometimes that's true, but there are instances in which you can troubleshoot the problem yourself. Here are three steps to take before calling in the pros.



CLEAN OR REPLACE YOUR FILTERS.

A clogged filter can cause your air conditioner to run less efficiently or even shut down. Thankfully, you may be able to remediate the problem simply by cleaning or replacing the filter. Better yet, you can avoid the problem altogether by maintaining your filter regularly. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends cleaning or replacing your filter every one to two months.



CHECK THE ACCURACY OF YOUR THERMOSTAT.

If you're experiencing temperature extremes, the problem could be your thermostat. Tape a thermometer to the wall next to your unit and wait 15 to 30 minutes. The thermostat and thermometer should match within one degree. If they don't, you may have a malfunction due to low battery power, a faulty sensor, or something else.



MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT POWER.

Check your fuse box to make sure the HVAC appliance in question is receiving power. If you suspect a tripped circuit, switch the breaker off for 10 to 15 seconds before turning it back on. If a fuse has blown, remove and replace it.

For your safety, don't perform DIY HVAC repairs that go beyond these basics. If our simple troubleshooting steps above don't fix the problem, it's time to call your HVAC contractor.



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SPICY BUFFALO CHICKEN DIP

Know How to Use Your Digital Thermostat



If you're thinking about getting a new digital thermostat, you should have a basic understanding of the main differences between the various types available. There are numerous thermostats available on the market today, but this piece will focus on two of the most popular types. More specifically, we'll examine the fundamental differences between programmable and Wi-Fi-enabled thermostats.

Programmable thermostats have been around for quite a while and represented a significant leap forward from old-fashioned, non-programmable devices. These thermostats let the user set different temperatures at different times. Some models may only let you set different temperatures for the morning and afternoon, while others are far more flexible.

Wi-Fi-enabled devices are much newer, allowing you to access control of your heating and cooling systems from just about anywhere in addition to being able to program them. These thermostats offer unmatched control and, when used correctly, can help improve energy efficiency markedly. These devices cost a little more, but recent improvements have made them very user-friendly.

Regardless of what kind of thermostat you choose, learning how to use it properly will ensure optimal performance and efficiency. Take the time to read through the manual and if you need some help, we're here for you.

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THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A ONE-TIME SERVICE CALL AND REGULAR MAINTENANCE

Some people avoid going to the dentist for regular X-rays and cleanings. They know they should go, but they find reasons not to. Then a dental emergency occurs, and it's catastrophic, painful, and expensive. Your HVAC system is similar; it needs regular maintenance to help avoid breakdowns that cost time and money.

In the HVAC world, there's a difference between a one-time service call and regular maintenance. Usually, a one-time service call is arranged because of an emergency: maybe the furnace has quit working, or maybe the A/C is blowing nothing but hot air. These service sessions are reactive, and just like that emergency trip to the dentist, they take a toll on your peace of mind and your wallet.

Regular maintenance calls, on the other hand, are proactive: they help prevent unforeseen emergencies. Your HVAC technician has up-to-date knowledge

about the newest techniques and products and the right tools to do the job, whether it's preparing your A/C for the upcoming hot months or priming your furnace for the next cold snap.

Paying for regular HVAC maintenance is often easier than paying for emergency HVAC repairs, too. Folks can usually work the small amount needed for biannual tech visits into their budgets much easier than they can accommodate the unexpected expense of an HVAC repair or replacement.

Call us today to find out what proactive steps you can take to prevent an HVAC emergency down the road. Unlike your dentist, we can't promise sparkling white teeth, but we're confident in the smile-worthy preventive maintenance we provide.



www.delsacservice.com

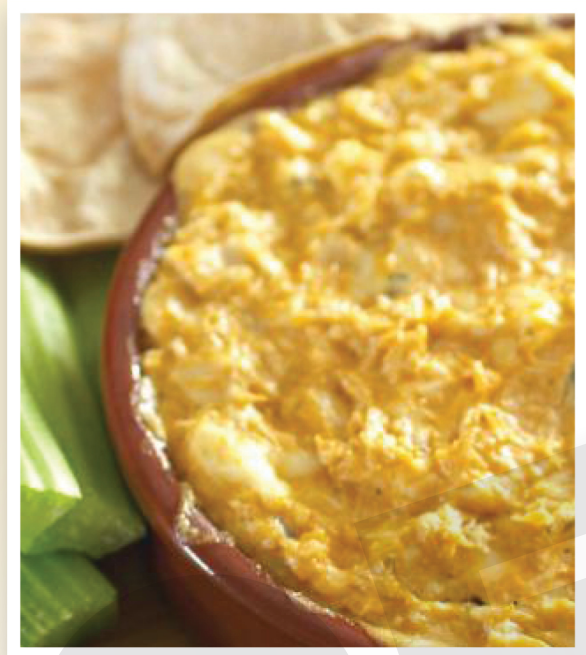
Spicy Buffalo Chicken Dip

INGREDIENTS

- ✦ 16 ounces cream cheese, softened
- ✦ 2 cups cooked chicken breast, finely chopped
- ✦ ⅓ cup hot sauce (I use Frank's Hot Sauce)
- ✦ 1½ cup Pepper Jack cheese, shredded
- ✦ ½ cup blue cheese, crumbled

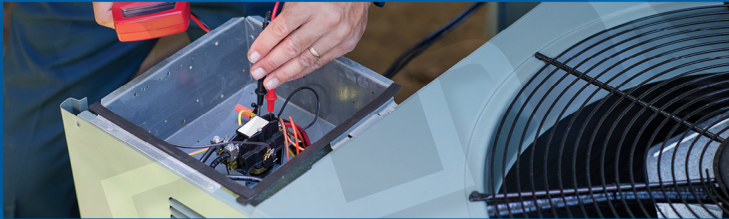
PREPARATION

- 1** Preheat oven to 350F degrees.
- 2** Combine all ingredients in an oven proof glass 2 qt casserole dish and mix well.
- 3** Bake for 25 minutes, or until mixture is bubbling and hot throughout.
- 4** Serve with an assortment of chips, crackers, and raw cut up veggies.



recipe source: <https://www.foodista.com/recipe/4FP5MMC2/spicy-buffalo-chicken-dip>

IS IT WORTH SIGNING UP FOR AN HVAC MAINTENANCE PLAN?



When you're considering signing up for an HVAC maintenance plan, there are several things you should know. To begin with, manufacturers require regular professional maintenance in order for their warranties to remain valid. Since these warranties cover major components and operational issues, forgoing routine maintenance can mean paying for costly repairs or replacements that could have been covered by the manufacturer.

Professional maintenance visits help to keep heating and cooling systems running efficiently and effectively, as well as reducing the likelihood that your system will need repairs. Of course, any heater or air conditioner, even those that are well maintained, can experience issues that require repairs. Having a maintenance plan doesn't guarantee that your system will never need to be repaired again.

When you're shopping around for a maintenance plan, it's important to keep in mind that not all maintenance plans are created equal. Some plans merely cover an inspection along with cleaning major components and making minor adjustments like tightening electrical connections. Other plans have a much more comprehensive checklist and may even cover some parts and labor for repairs.

HVAC maintenance is certainly necessary for your system to perform up to its potential, but it pays to know what you're actually paying for. Before signing up for any maintenance plan, make sure you know exactly what is and isn't covered so you won't be surprised later.

It's important to call a licensed, insured and qualified professional to deal with any HVAC maintenance issues that may arise in your home. Call our team today to learn more.

NEED HELP DECIDING IF YOU SHOULD REPAIR HVAC EQUIPMENT OR JUST REPLACE IT?

Sometimes it can be hard to tell whether you should keep putting money into repairing HVAC equipment or just replace it. There are a number of factors to consider when faced with this decision, from where you live and how often you use your system to changes in the market and environmental regulations. Everyone has their own set of unique circumstances and priorities that will also influence their decision.

Replacing your home's heating or air conditioning system is a substantial investment, so it's easy to understand why many people struggle with the issue. Of course, when people find themselves doing so, it's because they've experienced noticeable increases in their utility costs, lower performance, frequent repairs, or all of the above. If this sounds familiar, it would probably be best to take the plunge and get a new system.

The ban on the importation and production of freon along with the uncertainty of how the recently enacted tariffs will affect market prices will certainly factor into the decision for many. However, that doesn't mean that you should rush off and buy a new system just because you've had to have it repaired a few times before. Even the best HVAC systems will need to be repaired from time to time.

It's important to call a licensed, insured and qualified professional to deal with any HVAC repair or replacement situation. Call our team today to learn more.



Contact Us Today 512.961.6185

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