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Del's

HOME COMFORT REPORT

Spring 2022

Why It's Worth Replacing Your HVAC System

Is the thought of replacing your heating and cooling system causing you anxiety? Considering the fact that this important equipment is responsible for nearly half of your home's energy use, energy-efficiency is paramount.

LOWER ENERGY BILLS

With so much riding on the quality of your HVAC equipment, including the size of your monthly energy bills, it's often worth replacing an old or ailing system before it breaks down completely. A new system will pay for itself over time due to the energy savings alone.

IMPROVED HOUSEHOLD ENERGY-EFFICIENCY

Newer heating and cooling systems are generally much more efficient than their older cousins, which quickly translates to less energy use and smaller energy bills for customers. If you upgrade to a new thermostat, it's also much easier to tailor the temperature to your preferences. Some HVAC systems can even create various zones in your home for maximum comfort.

UPGRADED REFRIGERANT

If you have an older system, it may use a type of coolant called R-22, which is no longer legal to manufacture due to international environmental regulations. This means this coolant will be hard to find, if not impossible to find, within the next few years. Newer systems use a type of coolant known as R-410a, which is much more efficient at absorbing and releasing heat. It's also better for the environment.

MODERN AIR FILTRATION

Fresher, cleaner air is one of the biggest advantages of a new HVAC system. If you've been living with an older system for a while, you may not have even noticed how stuffy or drafty your home has become. A new unit arrives complete with a new filtration system that could make an immediate difference in the quality of your indoor air. For people with allergies, asthma, and other chronic health conditions, this is particularly important, and the change can be exhilarating.

To learn more about recent advances in HVAC equipment and how you could benefit from a new system, contact our office for information and advice.



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WHAT IS A SEER RATING AND WHY SHOULD IT MATTER TO ME?

When it comes time to buy a new AC unit or heat pump, you will notice that each appliance has a SEER rating. SEER stands for "Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio," and it's a rating that can tell you a lot about the efficacy of your purchase.

The SEER numbers on various HVAC cooling units allow you to shop and compare appliances at a glance. The higher the number, the more efficiently an AC unit or heat pump removes heat from your environment. This translates not only to greater comfort but also to more reasonable power bills.

The U.S. Environmental Protective Agency lists SEER as one of the key product criteria to look at when buying a new air conditioner or heat pump. This number is so important, in fact, that the U.S. Department of Energy periodically sets minimum SEER requirements for new HVAC cooling equipment. The lowest SEER ratings now sit between 13 and 15. These appliances are basic, hard-working, and sometimes loud. Higher SEER ratings can be anywhere from 20 to 25.

The right SEER rating for your new HVAC appliance depends on multiple factors, including the size of your home, your home's insulation, and typical energy costs in your region. To get the best value for your money, call us for a professional evaluation.



UNDERSTANDING THE IAQ SYSTEMS FOR YOUR HOME

IAQ is an important acronym to understand for health reasons. It stands for indoor air quality, and it can impact the short-term and long-term health of the occupants in your home or any other building. Here's a brief rundown of some basic whole home IAQ options for your household.



MINIMIZE AIRBORNE POLLUTANTS WITH AN AIR PURIFIER

One of the most straightforward ways to improve IAQ is to remove pollutants from your home. These include dust, dander, smoke, mold spores, and numerous other allergens that can irritate the human respiratory tract. Your HVAC system probably already has an air filter in place to help clean your indoor air. A portable air purifier strategically placed in a problematic area can further help to cleanse the environment.

HARNESSING THE POWER OF ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT

Lamps and other lights that emit ultraviolet (UV) rays can be installed to help kill or disable offending microorganisms. In fact, this type of light is already found in countless medical facilities worldwide to help prevent the spread of germs. Some UV lights can be installed directly into your HVAC equipment or in the ducts themselves; these lights are strategically placed to help sterilize the circulating air.

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE NEED FOR PROPER VENTILATION

A quality ventilation system is one of the best ways to usher fresh air into your living space and get rid of airborne pollutants all at the same time. An HVAC expert can advise you about the different types of mechanical ventilators available and what would be best for your living quarters, from simple supply and exhaust models to heat-recovery and energy-recovery ventilators.

Are you interested in learning more about IAQ solutions for your home? Call us today, and our expert team will assess your needs and make a recommendation to ensure your family is breathing easy at home.

\$100 OFF

AIR SCRUBBER PURIFICATION SYSTEM
(LIMITED TIME OFFER)

Offer not valid with any other offers. Limit one per household. Must present coupon at time of service. Contact Del's Heating & Air Conditioning for complete details.

Aaron Franklin Texas BBQ



EQUIPMENT

- ★ Pink Butcher paper for the wrap
- ★ Hickory wood

INGREDIENTS

- ★ 10 lb whole brisket
- ★ ½ cup kosher salt
- ★ ½ cup coarsely ground pepper
- ★ ¼ cup Worcestershire sauce
- ★ ¼ cup water

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare the brisket by trimming the fat off it. Leave the flat and point attached.
2. Liberally apply salt and pepper across the brisket on both sides.
3. Prepare your smoker for indirect smoking, and set to cook at 225°F. Add oak or hickory wood to the firebox.
4. Transfer the brisket to the smoker grates. Smoke for 6 hours, or until internal temperature has reached 165°F.
5. Remove brisket from smoker and leave to rest for 5 minutes.
6. Combine Worcestershire sauce and water in a mister. Spray brisket with mister solution.
7. Tightly wrap brisket in pink butcher paper. Transfer back to smoker. Close lid and leave to cook wrapped in paper for a further 2-3 hours, or until internal temperature reaches 185°F.
8. Do not remove fat cap. Slice as needed for serving. Wrap remainder and keep in refrigerator.

recipe source: <https://theonlinegrill.com/aaron-franklin-brisket-recipe/>

HVAC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE: UNDERSTANDING THE INS AND OUTS!

Two of the busiest appliances in the average home are the furnace and air conditioner. These appliances are also two of the biggest energy consumers. Regular maintenance for your HVAC system is critical if you want the best performance for your investment.



Of course, each home has its own HVAC equipment configuration. You might have central air and forced air heating, or you might have an elaborate mini-split system that caters to your heating and cooling needs. Each piece of equipment has an ideal maintenance schedule. Fortunately, tune-ups take little time and can be completed by your HVAC technician at your convenience.

Scheduling preventive maintenance for your heating and air conditioning systems does not have to be complicated. Plan for it twice per year: once in the fall, before it gets cold, and once in the spring, before it gets hot. By stopping problems before they start, you minimize your chance of getting stuck in a heatwave without AC or a cold snap without heat.

Let our scheduled maintenance program melt away your worries and wrap you in total comfort all year. Give us a call today to find out more, and be sure to ask about our replacement discounts and same-day emergency repair services.

3 STEPS TO TAKE IF YOUR HOME THERMOSTAT ISN'T WORKING

If you're experiencing HVAC problems due to a faulty thermostat – a home that's too hot or too cold, for example – there may be steps you can take to fix the problem. The ideas suggested below may help you sidestep an unnecessary visit from your HVAC contractor.

1. MAKE SURE YOUR THERMOSTAT IS RECEIVING POWER.

Whether your thermostat runs on battery power or electricity, make sure it's getting the juice it needs. Some thermostats have a low-battery indicator that makes the problem easy to diagnose. If it's not the battery, it could be a tripped circuit or blown fuse choking off the electrical supply. Check your fuse box or circuit panel box.

2. CLEAN THE THERMOSTAT.

A small amount of dust or dirt can have a big impact on the performance of your thermostat. Remove the thermostat cover and use a can of compressed air to blow dust and cobwebs out of the internal parts. If you don't have a can of compressed air on hand, try to remove any debris with a soft, dry brush. Avoid using water, as moisture could damage the interior components of the thermostat.

3. REPLACE THE THERMOSTAT.

Thermostats don't last forever, though a good one may last you 10 to 15 years. If it's been a decade or more, consider getting a new one. If you don't have a programmable or WiFi-connected thermostat, you might want to invest in this technology; the added efficiency could save you a bundle.

Some thermostats will be better for your particular system than others, so if you're opting to replace, call your HVAC contractor first to get advice on which model would be best for you.