



Hints For Homeowners

Hot Tips On Getting Ready For Cold Weather

(NAPSA)—Just as you wouldn't drive your car 100,000 miles without changing the oil, regular preventative maintenance is the best way to ensure trouble-free operation and peak performance from your home's heating and cooling system. Preseason maintenance can help you avoid a system failure in severe weather, when you need it least, and it can keep your energy bill from getting you hot under the collar.

What To Do

A complete cleaning should include replacing the filter and cleaning the ductwork, from where the air enters the return duct, through the air handler (blower, coil, and head exchange), to the exit, where the air is released to condition the home. This will remove built-up particulates and contaminants, improving indoor air quality and maximizing system efficiency.

Why To Do It

• **You Save Energy:** According to the United States Department of Energy, HVAC systems account for approximately 56 percent of the energy use in a typical home. When those systems begin to wear, they begin to operate less efficiently. Even in new buildings, HVAC systems can be dirty, and will become more heavily fouled through everyday use. Contaminated heating and cooling systems can be problematic for occupants, contributing to poor indoor air quality, system failure and increased energy use.

Proper maintenance and cleaning practices, such as those suggested by the National Air Duct



For more comfort at less cost, experts advise, it's wise to clean your heating system annually at least.

Cleaners Association (NADCA), can result in at least an 11 percent energy savings for home and business owners, according to a study conducted by the organization.

• **You Improve Indoor Air Quality:** In a typical six-room home, up to 40 pounds of dust are created annually through everyday living. Your heating and cooling system is the lungs of your home. The system takes air in and breathes air out.

Contaminants are pulled into the HVAC system and recirculated five to seven times a day, on average. Over time, this causes a buildup of contaminants in the ductwork.

Dirt may contribute to health issues, especially in people with respiratory conditions, autoimmune disorders or certain allergies.

Where To Learn More

Further facts and tips are at www.nadca.com. The locator there can help you find nearby NADCA-certified professionals. They adhere to a standard that can ensure a quality performance.