

DRAKES DUCK POND NEWS

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MOLDS – THE HIDDEN DANGER

Are you or your family suffering from allergies in your home? These items could have something to do with it. Molds, Mildew and fungi are present everywhere. Inside, outside, in your carpet and furniture, even in the air we breathe. Humid dark places with little air circulation promote the rapid growth of these problems.

Hidden Dangers

Eating, sleeping and relaxing in a home filled with molds and allergy antagonists can cause you health issues and allergy problems. Pulmonary Hemosiderosis has been linked to toxic mold exposure by the CDC. Molds can be a potential cause of many health problems including, asthma, sinusitis and respiratory infections. Eddie Our service manager had some good tips on this; First, good air circulation is advisable underneath your house where moisture and mold can grow unnoticed. If you have closeable crawlspace vents make sure they are opened in the spring. Take a look in your crawlspace and make sure that you have no standing water, if so there are pumping methods that can remove standing groundwater when it occurs. Second, you can crawl and inspect yourself or have a plumbing service technician take a look at all of your plumbing piping and make sure that it is not leaking and causing excessive moisture under your house or in your walls. Third, air filtration can be a major step in preventing mold and allergens as it eliminates air-born spores before they have a chance to land and grow. High efficiency Mechanical or Electronic air cleaners can be very successful at removing allergens and mold while your furnace or air conditioner is running. Maintaining these filters is critical to staying on top of your problems.

Please maintain your heating and cooling system. If you wait until it quits it will quit on you in worst time possible. Such as when it is 110 degrees or -15 degrees. Preventative maintenance is the best medicine you can use to stay comfortable year around. "If it can go wrong it will go wrong at the worst possible time" –

Murphy's Law



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Mold can even be found in your ductwork



Continued from above:

If you find mold in your walls or growing prominently in your crawlspace figure out what is causing it, fix the problem, then have a disaster cleanup company come in and remove it so that you can move onto a happier healthier life in your home.

Are Kids getting High off your Air Conditioner?

In talking with Local Boise resident Scott Barton he warned that he had turned on his air conditioner last spring and it did not work. He had an HVAC Technician come out to check and there was no refrigerant in it. They re-charged the system and got it all working again. Two weeks later it was blowing warm air. What he found was that his step daughter and friends were leaking it out into bags and "HUFFING" the refrigerant to get high. What could be done to prevent this dangerous habit from recurring?

I talked to Nick Drake of Drake Mechanical Inc., to see if he had any feedback for the issue and he had some good ideas. One, Put a padlock on your back gate to prevent trespassing kids from taking the refrigerant in the middle of the night. Two, have your heating and cooling contractor come out and install theft resistant "Cop Caps" on the test ports at the condensing unit. Three, please educate your children about the dangers of Refrigerant inhalation. It is deadly and dangerous. It can kill on the first time! Death is not a laughing matter! Let's keep our children healthy and our homes cool this summer.



FURNACE/AC EFFICIENCY RATINGS EXPLAINED

AFUE (Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency)

AFUE is the standard measurement of efficiency for gas and oil-fired furnaces. Given in percentages, this number tells you how much of your fuel is used to heat your home and how much fuel is wasted. The higher the AFUE rating, the greater the efficiency. Bryant offers a full line of furnaces with AFUE ratings ranging from the minimum industry requirement of 78% to more than 96%.

Cost Savings: If you have an older furnace (with an AFUE of approximately 60%), you could save up to 40% on your heating bills by replacing it with a new high-efficiency furnace! The cost to replace your old, inefficient furnace can be paid back through lower utility bills.



Heating & Cooling Systems

AIR CONDITIONER EFFICIENCY RATING EXPLAINED

SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio)

SEER is the measure of efficiency by which the cooling process of air conditioners and heat pumps is rated. The higher the SEER number, the greater the efficiency—and therefore the greater the energy savings. Today, U.S. regulatory agencies require all new products to have a 13.0 SEER rating or better. Bryant's full line of air conditioners offers SEER ratings of up to 20.

WASHING MACHINE HOSES

Please do yourself a favor and check out your washing machine hoses. The old style rubber washing machine hoses that we all used to have are a bad idea. Washing machine hoses are one of the most neglected but potentially damaging maintenance items in a home. Because they are out of sight, they are forgotten and give little warning of impending disaster.

Not checking your washing machine hoses is like not checking your oil. Nothing seems to be wrong until that moment when you life seems to flash in front of you... as well as the floating dresser... and the sofa table... and the dog... all magically cascading out the front door on a burst-hose tsunami!! If you can't remember how old your washer is, or if you think its age is in the double-figures, it's time to replace those hoses with new burst resistant braided hoses.





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HSPF (Heating Seasonal Performance Factor)

HSPF is the efficiency measurement used to gauge the efficiency of the heating mode of [heat pumps](#). The higher the number, the greater the efficiency and cost-savings. Today's models are required to have a 6.8 HSPF. Bryant offers heat pumps with HSPF ratings ranging from 6.8 to 9.5.

Cost Savings. : Higher efficiency in heat pumps and air conditioners usually means higher equipment cost but lower utility bills. If you live in a warm and/or humid climate, you will probably see the higher cost of a high efficiency air conditioner or heat pump paid back (through lower utility bills) in a few short years. Ask your [experienced Bryant dealer](#) to help you determine about how long it would take you to recover the additional cost in energy savings. Of course, long after the payback, you continue to save on your energy bills. utility bills) in a few short years. Ask your [experienced Bryant dealer](#) to help you determine about how long it would take you to recover the additional cost in energy savings. Of course, long after the payback, you continue to save on your energy bills.

WE SPECIALIZE IN RHEEM HOT WATER HEATERS. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RHEEM PROFESSIONAL ENERGY STAR WATER HEATERS PLEASE CALL US FOR AN APPOINTMENT



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