

SOS Newsletter

–Spring 2012 Edition

Ready, Set, Spring Forward!



Your Trustworthy Company Since 1950

They say the passing seasons bring on lots of change. And from Spring cleaning, schedule changes, and daylight saving time, we can all agree with that. But there is more to adjust than just your clocks for the season change. Is your home ready for the weather? Here are some helpful tips to add to your spring cleaning routine!

Is your home ready for summer?

- Make sure your whole-house humidifier is switched over from winter to summer.
- Some people think filters don't need changed in the summertime, but you still have to check and change your filters regularly in the summer months. Generally 1-3 months for a 1" filter and 6-12 months for a 5" filter.
- Get your equipment serviced before it gets too hot, don't wait until it's too late to get a maintenance check. Be proactive with your air conditioner or heat pump. It almost always costs much more to repair a problem than to simply prevent it.
- Switch your ceiling fans. A ceiling fan's direction in the summer should be rotating counter clockwise or forward to produce a Wind Chill effect by the downward airflow. The thermostat won't actually change but the room will seem several degrees cooler due to the wind chill factor.
- Seal your fireplaces. If you don't plan to use the fireplace this summer, seal it up so you don't lose cool air through your chimney.
- Reopen registers. People tend to close some of their registers during the winter, especially in rooms, such as the kitchen, that have heat-producing appliances. But you'll likely want the cool air to get into those rooms in the summer, so make sure all are open. The only ones you probably want closed, are in the basement.

Congratulations to our contest winners!

Congratulations to John and Shirley for winning our free furnace contest! In case you haven't heard, SOS decided to give away a furnace to a senior in need in celebration of founder LeRoy's 83rd birthday! John and Shirley were nominated by John's sister Linda. Linda described how John and Shirley's furnace was extremely old and barely functioning. On top of that and many other troubles encountered by the couple, their air conditioner went out last summer. So we decided to give them an air conditioner along with the furnace, in collaboration with York who helped us make this possible. Now they have a brand new York system and can be comfortable in their home once again. We are very happy SOS was able to give this gift to such a wonderful and deserving couple. We wish everyone could have won, but we want to say thank you to all who participated in our contest.



The York Rebate is Back!

The York rebate is back, but only for a short time... so don't miss out! The rebate is going on now through June. Call for your free estimate from SOS today (402) 391-2336. When you install a new high efficiency system, you get up to \$1300 off! If your system is more than 10-15 years old, then the new system will pay for itself! From costly repairs to using excessive amounts of energy to run, older systems are a headache. Save on your energy bill, save big on your new system, and gain peace of mind today!

Should I buy an air conditioner?

You should consider buying one during the spring "rebate" season if your current unit is old and you are worried about its reliability. A new unit can also be a good idea if your old unit has a 10-SEER or less. During the summer, units are expensive and have limited availability. However, if your old AC unit is broken then you have no choice.

Most companies have rebates in the March-June timeframe and the new, more efficient models appear in the spring. Although you can get some bargains after the season, a warm summer can leave pretty slim pickings. Don't forget that your warranty starts on the day you buy it, so buying in the fall effectively shortens the warranty.

What features do I need?

You should expect the unit to have a programmable thermostat, at least two cooling speeds, two fan speeds and an energy efficient setting, which stops the fan when the unit is not cooling. The unit should have an adjustable vent, which allows you to aim the cool air. The filter should be easily accessible for removal and cleaning. You want a manufacturer's warrantee for at least 10 years along with a labor warranty.

Some of the newer units have an upgraded filter available either standard or as an option. This filter will remove extremely small particles from the air. This is a super feature for people with allergies.

What is SEER?

SEER is the air conditioner efficiency rating, it describes how much electricity the unit will use. The SEER rating of a unit is the cooling output in BTUs during atypical cooling season, divided by the total electric energy input in watt0hours during the same period. The higher the unit's SEER rating, the more energy efficient it is. The minimum efficiency today is 13 SEER and we sell units with efficiencies up to 18 SEER.

What cooling capacity do I need?

Cooling capacity is measured in BTU/hour. (British Thermal Units per Hour) The higher the number, the more powerful the unit is. A small room of 150 square feet may only need a 5000 BTU/Hour unit, whereas a room of 1200 square feet may need a 19,000 BTU/Hour monster.

Do you have return air in your basement?

Many times a basement is finished without adding return air. The coldest spot in your house is the basement. It makes for a more efficient system when air is pulled off the basement floor and circulated throughout the rest of your home. This is a problem that should be addressed and corrected when a new system is installed. Not sure if this was done in your home? Feel free to give us a call with any questions you may have.

Summer Zucchini Casserole

Garden-fresh zucchini, carrots and onion baked in a creamy chicken broth and sandwiched between layers of bread stuffing make up this summery casserole that's perfect for any occasion.

Ingredients

2 pounds sliced zucchini
1/4 cup chopped onion
1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of chicken soup
1 cup sour cream
1 cup grated carrots
1 stick unsalted butter, melted
1 (6 ounce) package chicken-flavored dry bread stuffing mix

Cooking Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Boil the zucchini and onion in water for 5 minutes; drain well. In a medium bowl, combine the soup, sour cream and carrots. Stir in the zucchini and onion and mix well. In a separate medium bowl, combine the butter and stuffing mix. Spread half of this mixture into the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking dish. Spoon the zucchini mixture over the stuffing, then top off with the other half of the stuffing. Bake in the preheated oven for 25 to 30 minutes, or until stuffing is golden brown.

Servings per Recipe: 4

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