

POWER Source

May 2008

**Customers first.
Energy that lasts.**



Get a breath of fresh air

5 minute task

If your ceiling fan is the kind that can be operated counterclockwise to force heated air downward in winter, it's time to make an adjustment. Running a ceiling fan clockwise circulates air to help you feel cooler without turning on the A/C. ■

Spring is the ideal time to improve the quality of the air you breathe inside your home. If too little fresh air is brought in, pollutants can accumulate and eventually trigger respiratory problems.

Opening a window or running an attic fan is a simple way to improve your home's ventilation. A kitchen or bath fan that exhausts outdoors can also remove contaminants and moisture from those rooms, while increasing the amount of outdoor air brought inside.

Most home heating and cooling systems do not automatically bring fresh air into the home, although ventilation equipment can be added. Here are some very easy, affordable steps you can take right now:

- Dust regularly with a damp cloth.
- Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter.
- Change your furnace/air conditioner filter every month, and purchase filters with a higher MERV rating to trap more contaminants.
- Avoid smoking in your home.
- Keep rooms well-ventilated when using household cleaners or aerosols.
- Take off your shoes at the door to avoid tracking pollen and dirt into the rest of your home.
- Wash bedding with hot water and dry on high heat.

You also can grow many common houseplants to help replenish oxygen and remove carbon dioxide, but be careful to check that the plants you choose are not hazardous to pets or small children who live in or visit your home. ■

Be de-lighted

Turning off unused lights will not only save wasted energy, it can help keep your home cooler. Standard incandescent light bulbs can be very inefficient because much of the energy they use is converted to heat instead of light. ■



Please don't let dogs make our lives...ruff

They may be man's best friend, but some dogs can get a little too eager to protect their owners' homes. For our meter readers, bites from unrestrained or stray dogs present a serious on-the-job danger. While we train employees regularly in dog-bite prevention, you can help by making sure pets are properly contained at all times, especially when our meter reader visits your home.

Even if a dog isn't considered an aggressive breed, any dog can bite, and even good dogs have bad days. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 800,000 dog bite-related injuries each year require medical care. Do your part to help protect everyone, including meter readers, mail carriers and neighborhood children. Thank you! ■

Hot or not

The thermometer still says spring, but turning on your air conditioner now could keep you from getting hot under the collar later. Spend a few minutes this month to take care of your home's A/C and check it for proper operation:

- Clear any leaves, brush or dirt from inside the air conditioner's top grille.

- Trim nearby shrubs and bushes to allow at least two feet of clearance around the unit.
- Set the thermostat to cooling mode now. Program in a lower temperature and run your air conditioner a few minutes to make sure it's working.
- Remember to replace your air conditioner filter once a month, because dirty filters restrict air flow and allow your system to waste energy.

If you use a room air conditioner, be sure it's installed on a north-facing wall to keep it out of the sun, as a room air conditioner works better when the unit stays cool. If it's time to replace your air conditioner, choose an ENERGY STAR® qualified model to help reduce cooling costs as much as 20 percent. ■

Keep your cool (for less)

Enjoy a spring break from using your HVAC system, and have your home's air conditioning inspected and maintained this month before summer's heat returns. Regular cleaning and filter replacement can help save up to 10% of your cooling costs.

This month is an ideal time to make sure your home stays comfortable and energy-efficient until fall by:

- Scheduling an inspection of your home's ducts and cooling equipment by a qualified HVAC contractor.
- Clearing rain gutters and storm drains to help control humidity in your home.
- Vacuum vents, ducts and baseboard heaters to protect efficiency.
- Have your chimney cleaned and fireplace inspected for proper operation.
- Install a programmable thermostat to raise the temperature while you're at work, and cool your home down just before you return.
- Consider replacing single-pane windows with double-pane models to reduce energy loss.
- Replace old incandescent light bulbs with higher-efficiency CFLs (compact fluorescent bulbs). ■



What are you doing June 20th?

That's when you're invited to our Customer Appreciation Day to enjoy refreshments, receive a small token of appreciation and learn more about our parent company, E.ON U.S. Visit any of our business offices to take part. You'll find the location and hours of an office near you at www.eon-us.com. ■

CONTACT INFORMATION

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