



Your Healthy Home

Industry Changes In 2010.

In January of 2010 new ac units will no longer come charged with refrigerant 22 (R-22), which has been around for decades. Don't worry, we'll still be able to get R-22 for your old unit. The new refrigerant of choice is called R-410a. The reason for the change has to do with the ozone depletion potential (ODP) of R-22. R-22 is a hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC), while R-410a is a hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HFC). It is the chlorine in R-22 that reaches the upper atmosphere and has a negative effect on the ozone layer. R-12, which used to be in cars and refrigerators, was discontinued several years ago. R-12 was a chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) and had a much higher ODP than R-22. Most people call refrigerants "Freon". The Montreal Protocol set all these changes in motion back in 1987, in an attempt to act in a responsible manner and save our environment. The concern was due to leaks in equipment and venting into the atmosphere when servicing or replacing. Refrigerant is no longer vented, but recovered, then sent back to the manufacturer to be purified and resold as new.

What's New In Equipment?

The industry has come a long way due to technology. Trane now has a 3-stage heating furnace with a high efficiency variable speed blower motor. The system can even call you on your cell phone if there is a problem—really! Trane has just introduced a new 20 SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio) ac unit that has two stages of cooling, utilizing two compressors. The system utilizes "Charge Assist", an electronic system that allows the air conditioner to charge itself with refrigerant. The installer simply hooks up a refrigerant tank to the system and pushes the charge button on a circuit board. After about 20 minutes the system charges itself perfectly for maximum efficiency. Communicating technology is currently used by Trane. Three wires run from the furnace to the thermostat and two wires run from the furnace to the ac unit. The system components communicate with each other via a data bus. An average homeowner can save \$800 in annual heating & cooling costs by upgrading an old system to a new high efficiency system. You'll also have a much more comfortable home.

What exactly is a heat pump?

A heat pump starts out as an air-conditioner. A few more components are added to allow the unit to not only cool your home in the summer, but heat your home in the winter. With a heat pump, in the winter, outside air is actually cooled (heat is removed from the air) and the heat is transferred inside (heat is rejected from the air.) That's just the opposite of the way your home is air-conditioned in the summer. It's much cheaper to transfer heat than it is to create heat by burning gas or using electric resistance heating elements. Up to 4 times cheaper!

Trane Spring Promo is underway!

Purchase a new Trane comfort system before June 13, 2009 and get a cash back rebate of up to \$1000. 6 months same as cash financing also available. Call us for details.

682-1301



How Important Is Annual Air Conditioner Maintenance?

Because ac units are located outdoors, they are subjected to an environment that is much more severe than that of your furnace. When the ac is running, some of the dirt in the air, as it flows through the condenser coil, will get filtered out by the fins on the coil. It doesn't take too much dirt on the coil fins to decrease the efficiency of the ac unit by 25% or more. Most condenser fan motors need to be oiled once per year. Electrical components wear and connections can loosen due to the weather. If the refrigerant charge is off by even a little, your cooling costs will in-

crease. So, to maintain the efficiency, reliability and longevity of your ac unit, you should strongly consider annual maintenance. If you choose not participate in annual maintenance on your ac unit, at least hose out the condenser coil in the Spring. As a reminder, we offer annual preventive maintenance plans, wherein we perform a safety inspection and performance tune-up on both your furnace and ac unit, for an annual investment of only \$140. You can download our maintenance brochure by visiting the maintenance section of our website @ Comfort-Specialists.com.

Options For Clean, Healthy Air

Energy Recovery Ventilators



In an effort to increase the energy efficiency of our homes, modern homes are now sealed up so tight that fresh air can't get in. While that's great for reducing energy costs to heat and cool your home, it's not so great for indoor air quality. All

those pollutants that are generated within your home are now trapped inside your home—they can't get out!

What pollutants, you ask? Dust and dirt. Chemicals (VOC's); generated from the off-gassing of petroleum based products used in the manufacturing of furniture, carpeting, paint, stains, and household cleaners. Carbon dioxide; generated from breathing and from gas burning appliances. Ever go into a home and it smells stale? That stale

smell is from the buildup of carbon dioxide. Carbon Monoxide; produced by gas burning appliances. Excess humidity; from showering, cooking, too many fish tanks. When the EPA says the air in homes is 5-7 times more polluted than outside air—this is why.

Fortunately, there is a way to introduce fresh air into your home without sacrificing too much in the way of energy efficiency. It's called an energy recovery ventilator (ERV). Trane calls it "Fresh Effects". Here's how it works. Polluted air from your home is exhausted outside, while at the same time fresh outside air is brought into your home. The two airstreams pass through a heat recovery core transferring the heat energy between them at around 70% efficiency. An electronic control tells the ERV what percentage of the time you want it to operate. Cool huh?

If you have a question or topic you would like us to discuss in a future newsletter, or would like to be added to our email list for special offers—just send an email with your name address and email address to [Comfort@Mtco.com!](mailto:Comfort@Mtco.com)

Special Coupons

Don't forget about your air conditioner this Spring!
A properly maintained ac unit will:

- Cost less to operate.
- Last longer.
- Cool better.
- Dehumidify better.
- Give you better comfort.
- Be good for the environment .



Peak Performance Ac Check Special!

\$89.00

Thru April 30, 2009

Indoor Air Quality Test Special...

(Includes Radon Testing)

Thru April 30, 2009



\$179.00

According to the EPA air pollution in the home can be two to five times higher than outdoor levels. 50% of Americans live with someone who has allergies, asthma or other respiratory conditions. Indoor air quality is one of the top five most urgent risks to public health. Visit the indoor air quality section of our website for brochures and additional information!



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