



A CENTURY OF INNOVATION

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HOT Ideas and COOL Solutions

from R.A. Shavitz Inc.

6 Tips for Your Air Conditioner

CHANGE FILTERS REGULARLY.

Dirty filters are one of the biggest reasons why air conditioners break down. They block airflow and cause the unit to overwork. A dirty filter will also cut down airflow, which causes your upstairs to get too hot. Those pleated filters also block too much air and are not recommended.

GIVE YOUR AIR CONDITIONER A BATH.

When all of the dust and cottonwood plugs up your air conditioner, it struggles to cool your house. This wears the unit down and causes it to lose efficiency, sucking more dollars out of your pocket in the form of higher energy bills. When you are out watering your flowers, water your air conditioner, too!



DO NOT PUT THINGS ON TOP OF THE UNIT.

And remember to take that cover off!



BE CAREFUL WHEN DOING YARD WORK.

When mowing the lawn, direct the mower away from the unit. A coil blocked with grass clippings and debris drastically reduces its effectiveness. And be careful with that weed whacker!

HAVE A ROUTINE MAINTENANCE PLAN.

Just like the annual dental check-ups and regular oil changes are important for you and your car, routine maintenance for your air conditioning will help prevent breakdowns, extend the life of your equipment, and maintain peak efficiency... saving you time and money!

TRY A SETBACK THERMOSTAT TO REDUCE ENERGY BILLS.

Try a setback thermostat to reduce energy bills. Why pay for air conditioning when you are not home? A programmable thermostat can reduce your energy bill by up to 20%.



Tech Corner Q & A

Q

Michael D. from Northbrook asks, "How often should I change the air filters on my furnace?"

A

The furnace manufacturers recommend changing your filter every month. In reality, you only need to change your filter when it's dirty. If you can't see light through it, it's way too dirty! For some, that may only be a few times per year, but

Continued...





Nature's Top 10 Home Grown Air Cleaners

Get cleaner air with these common houseplants.

Houseplants are often overlooked helpers in ridding the air of pollutants and toxins. It is suggested that one plant should be allowed for approximately 10 square yards of floor space, assuming average ceiling heights of 8-9 feet. This means you need two or three plants to contribute to good air quality in the average domestic living room of about 20-25 yards.

Friendly House Plants



- Areca palm
- Reed palm
- Dwarf date palm
- Boston fern
- Janet Craig dracaena
- English ivy
- Australian sword fern
- Peace Lily
- Rubber plant
- Weeping fig

Research has shown that the 10 plants are the most effective all-around in counteracting gas chemicals and contributing to balanced internal humidity:

Although many plants like light, they do not all have to be placed near windows. Many indoor plants originated in the dense shade of tropical forests and have a high rate of photosynthesis. These are ideal for the home and can be placed in darker corners. When positioning plants, try to strike a balance between light and ventilation. The effect of plants on indoor air pollution appears to be reduced when set in a draft.

Continued

Q & A

other people may actually need to change that filter monthly, especially those who have pets and kids running inside and outside (and often forgetting to close that door!). Lastly, try to resist the temptation of those white pleated filters. They may ultimately do more harm than good by choking the airflow and overheating your furnace.

Stay tuned for more tech tips and feel free to email any questions to the Tech Corner at Juliet@shavitz.com.



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