



Plan Now To Ensure A Cool Summer

Spring may be in the air, but summer will soon be right around the corner. And, if it's anything like past years, we may be in for another hot one.

If you have central A/C, that means your system will likely be working over-time this summer. You can avoid problems with your system by scheduling a pre-season tune-up now. Our tune-up is comprehensive — inside and out. It's designed to spot problems before they occur and to keep your system running efficiently.

And if you've struggled through the past few summers with an aging air conditioner, spring is the perfect time to shop for a new system. Emergency replacements can be stressful and uncomfortable situations. If you begin the replacement process now before summer sets in, you have more time to make the best cooling choice for your home.

To ensure a perfectly cool summer, call **Edwin Stipe, Inc.** today at **610-258-0201**, or visit **www.edwinstipe.com**.

Feeling The Heat?

Though we never give them much thought, our hot water heaters are hard-working appliances that are expected to operate for many years. But longevity is the result of regular maintenance, and our trained service professionals at **Edwin Stipe** can help keep your equipment running at optimum efficiency. Our water heater service includes:

- Annual flushing to remove sediment deposits from the water supply
- Inspecting the water heater tank for rust buildup
- Pipe inspection and repair of any leaks
- Checkup to ensure that valves, electrical wiring and gas and water connections are working properly

Proper maintenance will help ensure better water heater efficiency and save you money. For example, lowering the water temperature setting by just 10 to 20 degrees can help you save 3 to 5 percent in energy costs. You can also install cost-efficient low-flow shower heads.

Another energy-efficient option to consider is a tankless water heater. These provide hot water on demand and enjoy a life span of about 20 years. They're available in a variety of sizes, some small enough to be installed near the point of use, such as a bathroom or under the kitchen sink.

Remember, if you're not feeling the heat from your water heater, you can call on us for help. We'll evaluate your hot water needs and make sure your equipment is running properly for years to come.



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Changing SEASONS

A PUBLICATION FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF EDWIN STIPE, INC.



Spring 2016



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See Back for Special Offers

Clearing Clutter

There are two steps to getting organized — discarding the unwanted, and finding more (and better) ways to store what you have. A balance of both works well, and getting organized is a perfect Spring cleaning resolution. Try these handy tips for clearing clutter:

Step 1: Discard the unwanted.

Getting rid of unwanted items doesn't have to be painful. Most of the time we keep stuff around because we think we might need it. The golden rule is, if you haven't used the item in one year,

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chances are you never will. When in doubt, box it up, date it, and if it's still untouched in a year, donate it to your favorite charity.

Tip: What about "treasures"? Whether it's a postcard from a loved one, or a finger painting from a grandchild, sometimes memories are too hard to part with. Solution: Purchase an attractive container and start a memory box. That way, all your treasures end up safely (and neatly) in one spot.

Step 2: Organize what's left. Similar things stay together. That means all the crafting stuff belongs in one place, important papers belong in another. Home clutter can be greatly reduced by simply organizing what you've got. Whether it's in a drawer or a box under your bed, having it all together saves time looking for an item and it reduces clutter.

Tip: When you begin to organize and clean clutter, don't get stumped by those odds and ends that seem to have no home. You have no idea what they are or who they belong to — such as small pieces and parts of broken items, or unidentified keys. Simply put them all together in a shoebox. Next time you're missing an odd part, you'll know where to look. Make sure the whole family knows the game plan so they too can place unidentified objects in the box instead of leaving them around to collect dust.

And remember, organizing and clearing clutter can be tackled in bitesize pieces ... one room ... one closet ... even one workspace. If the project seems overwhelming, try starting with something small, such as one drawer or cabinet. You'll be inspired by your progress, and soon you'll find your home clutter-free. ■



Scan children's artwork so you can view it online digitally instead of adding to a pile of paper.

Utilizing Ceiling Fans For Year-Round Savings

If you've been using your ceiling fans to help circulate heat in your home this winter, it's time to flip the switch, located near the fan motor.

During colder months, ceiling fans can be useful energy savers, effectively moving trapped heat into the living areas. When operating in a clockwise rotation (forward), they push up the air and pull the warm air trapped near the ceiling down the sides of the room improving heat distribution.

As the weather warms up, you want the blades to be rotating in a counter-clockwise direction (reverse). This creates a breeze effect or "windchill" that cools our skin.

As we look for ways to cut heating and cooling costs, it pays to use every tool available to reduce our energy consumption and keep us comfortable. ■



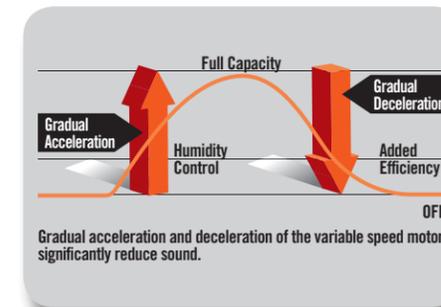
The fan direction should be set to **DOWN** for summer and **UP** for winter.

Tip

Sealing air leaks in your home with caulk keeps warm air out — and cash in your wallet.

Benefits Of Variable-Speed

Typically, an air conditioner with a conventional single-speed fan motor blasts air into the home at high speed, which can be loud and jarring. However, a variable-speed motor slowly ramps up to full speed. This gradual acceleration and deceleration provides more precise temperature control and better airflow throughout the home. It also operates so quietly you may not even realize it's running.



Variable-speed technology slowly circulates air, even on the Fan setting, allowing filters to capture more contaminants.

Additional benefits of variable-speed technology include:

- Less energy consumption
- Increased cooling efficiency
- Greater air circulation and filtration
- Better humidity control

Your home may not be as energy-efficient as it could be. Give us a call if it's time to upgrade to a higher-efficiency cooling system. ■

Question & Answer

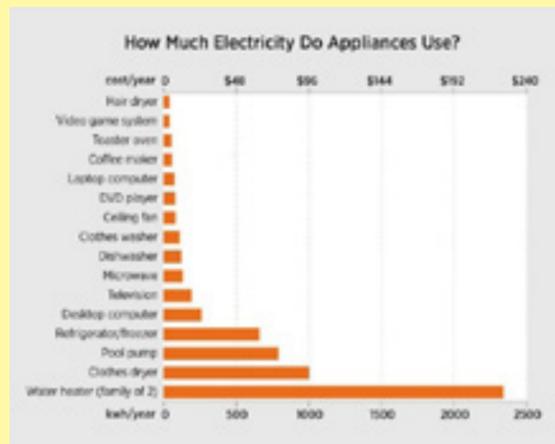
Is there a way to find out how much electricity all of my home appliances are consuming?

The chart on the left shows the average amount of energy, along with the corresponding cost to use that appliance each year.

Keep in mind, all appliances are not created equal: before you make your next appliance purchase, be sure to check the EnergyGuide label found on most home appliances. The EnergyGuide label gives you two important pieces of information to use for comparison of different brands and models when shopping for your next appliance:

- Estimated energy consumption on a scale showing a range for similar models.
- Estimated yearly operating cost based on the national average cost of electricity.

To keep energy expenses in check, it pays to be informed. ■



Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Earth & Atmosphere

Nature's Palette

Wildflowers are not only gorgeous spots of color that dot our roadsides and countrysides, but much-needed sources of food and habitat for butterflies, bees and other wild pollinators. We depend on these small creatures for a significant portion of our food supply.

In 2015, the federal government set ambitious goals that include the restoration or enhancement of seven million acres of land for pollinator habitat, with roadsides making up a significant portion of that acreage. Roadside management policies can be a huge part of the solution, especially for key declining species like bumblebees and monarch butterflies. The disappearance of milkweed has corresponded with the drop in the monarch population, landing them on the federal watch list.

In some places, reducing or adjusting highway mowing schedules may be all that's needed. Mowing once a year in late autumn, when pollinators are not flying, would have the least impact on their food sources. Encouraging or restoring native plants over turf, especially within cities, would also help.

With careful management of our roadways, we not only help our pollinators thrive once more, but we also enjoy the beauty of nature's varied palette. ■

Wildflowers lining a highway in Texas offer food and habitat for pollinators.

