



## Great Service Is Always In Season

The fall season and cooler temperatures are just around the corner. But regardless of the season, our commitment to offering the best products and services in the industry remains the same. And we want to thank you, our customer, for letting us be your trusted provider of these products and services.

No matter the season, we are always a reliable source for solutions to your plumbing, heating or cooling problems. From hot to cold and everything in between, we're unwavering in our aim to provide the best customer experience around. Because let's face it — without your continued business, we would not be here today.

Whether you're getting a head start on winter by scheduling a pre-season heating system check-up, or would like to request an estimate for possible equipment replacement, we are your one-stop shop for home comfort. Call **Edwin Stipe, Inc.** today — we'll prove that customer service never goes out of season.

## Prep Your Plumbing For Winter

Plumbing is especially vulnerable to the cold and freezing temperatures. If pipes burst or are broken, they can cause some of the most expensive home repairs. Here are a few precautions to take to prepare your home plumbing for winter.

**Exposed Pipes:** Insulate exposed pipes in uninsulated spaces such as the attic, a crawlspace or outside walls with heat tape and/or foam insulation.

**Exterior Faucets:** Turn off the water supply inside the house, then drain water by opening up the exterior faucet. Insulated covers are also a good preventive measure.

**Garden Hoses:** Remember to disconnect all garden hoses from outside faucets and then drain them.

**Shut Down:** If you're planning to be away from home for the winter, the water supply should be shut off and the plumbing system drained. If a leak were to occur while you were gone, the damage could be catastrophic.

Please let us know if you need our help preparing your home's plumbing for winter. And if you have any plumbing needs, be sure to give us a call at **877-337-8473**.

Take advantage of the coupon featured in this newsletter:  
**\$50 OFF residential plumbing repair.**



**877-337-8473**

[www.edwinstipe.com](http://www.edwinstipe.com)

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# Changing SEASONS

A PUBLICATION FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF EDWIN STIPE, INC.



Fall 2015



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## Stay Comfy And Healthy Indoors

Colder weather will be here before we know it, which means more time spent inside our homes. Now is a good time to make sure your heating system is ready for the cooler temperatures and your indoor air is healthy.

**Hot and cold spots.** It's a frequent complaint: certain rooms of the house are too hot in the summer, too cold in the winter, and never seem to be the same temperature as the rest of the house. This may be due to an incorrectly sized system

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for the size of your home, or older, inefficient equipment. We can help troubleshoot the problem so you end up with a better balance of comfort.

**Mold and mildew.** If you notice inadequate airflow or high moisture levels, your home may be at risk for mold and mildew problems. Improving ventilation can help — particularly in baths and laundry areas. Make sure all appliances that produce moisture are properly vented. Another option to consider is installing a whole-house dehumidifier system to keep your indoor air regulated with correct humidity levels.

**Year-round allergies.** You can't see them, but they are there — microscopic particles like pet dander, bacteria, pollen, viruses and dust that live in your home. For anyone who suffers from allergies or asthma, these pollutants can be a health risk. One solution is to install an air purification system. It can remove up to 99.9% of these particles, making your home a healthier place to live and breathe.

**Dying houseplants.** Are your houseplants blooming all year until dry winter air rolls around? Your houseplants — just like you — need moisture to survive and thrive. With central heating, unnaturally dry air can compromise respiratory health. A whole-house humidifier can add the needed moisture to every room of your home, reducing dry skin and sore throats caused by low levels of humidity. ■



**The fall season is the perfect time to prepare your home for a cozy winter.**

## System Maintenance Time

Regular maintenance of your HVAC system is as important as regularly changing the oil or checking the tires on your car. Not only does it keep your system working at peak efficiency, it's also the best way to spot potential problems before they occur. It's wise to have your system checked twice a year.



Regular system maintenance helps prevent breakdowns and improve efficiency — extending the life of your HVAC equipment.

A typical fall checkup will include an overall system evaluation to make sure your furnace is operating correctly. We'll also check electrical functions and ignition controls; test belts, check filters and drains; inspect and clean the flue; and check the burners and heat exchanger. Proper maintenance protects your investment and offers you peace of mind, knowing that your comfort system will be there when you need it the most.

Call us to schedule a system checkup. Our home comfort professionals are ready to put their expertise to work for you. ■

**Tip** Check smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries every six months to make sure they're in working order.

## Energy Ratings: All In The Numbers

When it's time to shop for a new heating and air conditioning system, energy rating data can help you make smart choices. These numbers allow you to compare equipment efficiency based on the amount of energy used, which can save you money over the life of the equipment.



As of January 1, 2015, the U.S. DOE has imposed elevated minimum AFUE and SEER standards on HVAC equipment, and they vary by region.

The more heated or cooled air a system puts out for each unit of energy it consumes, the higher the rating — AFUE (Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency) for fossil-fuel furnaces, or SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) for electric cooling. So, equipment with a higher efficiency rating will help lower utility bills.

Let us help guide you through the numbers, so you can make an educated choice for your home. ■

## Question & Answer

### How do you know when it's time to change an air filter?

The air that flows through your home is drawn into your HVAC unit, run over coils that heat or cool the air, and is then blown back into individual rooms. The air filter collects airborne particles, so indoor air is cleaner and the airflow to your HVAC unit isn't restricted. It's recommended to check the filter once a month and change or clean it as needed, but not to let more than 90 days pass between times.

Consider the following when evaluating if it's time to change your system's air filter: The type of air filter your system uses (see chart at left). The more people who live in your household, the more airborne pollutants, so the filter may need to be changed more frequently. If you have health issues or allergies, you could benefit from changing the filter monthly. If you have pets, the air filter is likely to fill up faster than if you don't have a pet. And when it's peak heating or cooling season, you may want to check and change the filter more often.

Be sure to set a reminder on your phone or mark a calendar, so you don't forget to check and change or clean your air filter on a regular basis. ■

When to change your air filter:	
Filter Type	Replacement Frequency
Traditional Fiberglass or Polyester	Monthly
Washable/Reusable	Washed out monthly and reused
Electronic Air Cleaner	Cleaned regularly (once a month)
Ordinary Flat or Pleated	Every 2-3 months
Pleated, Permanently Charged Electrostatic	Every 2-3 months
Deep Pleated	Once or twice a year

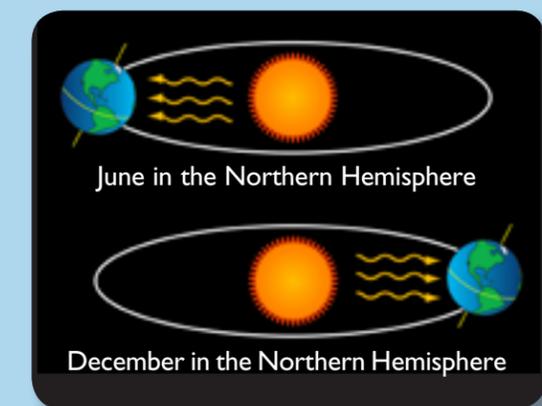
Your filter type and equipment usage will determine how often to change your air filter. Please use the chart above as a guide.

# Earth & Atmosphere

## Reasons For Seasons

Many people believe that Earth's distance from the Sun is what influences the change of seasons, but this is not at all the case. Because the Earth's orbit is slightly lopsided, the distance from the Sun does vary some, but relatively speaking, it isn't much.

The real cause for our changing seasons is the tilt of the Earth's axis. Over the course of the year, the Earth travels once around the Sun tilted on its axis at 23.5 degrees. Due to this tilting, the sun shines directly on the Northern Hemisphere in June, causing warming temperatures and summer. At this same time, the Southern Hemisphere is getting indirect sunlight and it is winter there. Six months later, the Earth has traveled to the "other side" of the Sun and the Northern Hemisphere is receiving indirect sunlight, causing cooler temperatures and winter, while the Southern Hemisphere gets the direct sunlight and summer. The Sun shines equally on the Northern and Southern Hemispheres in spring and fall. ■



Earth rotates on its axis as it orbits the Sun, but the axis always points in the same direction.

Photo credit: NASA. Space Place: spaceplace.nasa.gov