

DRAKES DUCK POND NEWS



OCTOBER 2011

VOL #2 ISSUE #4

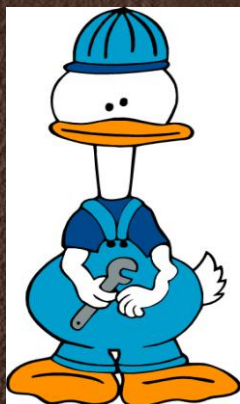


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"If it can go wrong it will go wrong at the worst possible time" –Murphy's Law

Fall Furnace Tune Up

Why does everyone push the preventative maintenance you ask? Because simply put it makes your plumbing, heating, or air conditioning equipment last longer. Think of it as an oil change on your car. What happens if you don't take change your oil? Your engine will eventually seize up and quit working. The same thing goes for your air conditioning system. What Gets Done When I Get Preventative Maintenance Done you Might Ask?

- A tech will come to your home or your business and check over the entire furnace or heating system
- They will Test and Check all safety Features. This is essential for proper equipment operation and insures that your system will shut down if there is ever a problem.
- Test all motors and moving parts for proper voltage and amp draws. This extends the life of your major electrical components inside your furnace or heating system.
- Lubricate all moving parts as per manufacturer's specifications. Poor lubrication causes components to drag and create electrical overload which results in higher bills and equipment failure.
- Check ducts for leaks. Duct leaks in non-conditioned areas will cause poor system performance and improper heating/cooling-results in energy bills
- Test temperature differences. This double checks efficient operation of your furnace or heating system
- Check blower assembly. By maintaining proper alignment and making sure all components are clean, you will insure adequate airflow and increase your comfort.
- Check and adjust burner unit. A dirty or improperly adjusted burner will result in excessive fuel usage and may damage heat exchanger
- Check all filters. Dirty or Blocked Filters can cause Reduced air flow and cause damage to the heat exchanger
- Inspect Heat Exchanger. This is especially important because of the fact that if it is cracked and broken, when the furnace runs it will be pushing Co2 into your home. If you suspect you might be having problems please have this checked out immediately. You don't want to go to bed and not wake up.

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When was the last time you changed your water filters?

Do you have water filters in your home, maybe under the sink, in your refrigerator, a whole house filter in front of the water softener or where the well piping comes into the home? If so those need to be changed on a schedule just like your furnace in order for proper water flow and sanitary reasons. If you have a refrigerator with an ice maker and water dispenser most likely you have a filter that is inside the refrigerator. Those tend to get pretty gross after about 6 months. If you have a drinking water dispenser at your kitchen sink there is most likely a filter under your sink that needs changed on a regular basis as well. Usually on the filter it will tell you how many gallons they are good for and you can do a rough guess of how long that takes. If you have special filters and are having trouble locating us give us a call and we can locate them for you.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS THAT DRAKE MECHANICAL SUPPORTS:

EL KORAH SHRINER'S (SHRINER'S HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN)
<http://www.elkorah.org>

BOISE NOON OPTIMIST YOUTH FOOTBALL
<http://www.boiseoptimist.org/>

NAMPA VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE
<http://www.nampavalleylittleleague.com/>

BOISE RESCUE MISSION
<http://www.boiserm.org/>

YOU CAN ALSO FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER, CHECK OUT OUR BLOG AT www.drakemechanical.com FOR OFTEN UPDATED EDUCATIONAL ARTICLES.

FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/drake.mechanical

TWITTER:
<http://twitter.com/DrakeMech>



WINTERS COMING WHAT SHOULD I DO AT HOME TO GET READY???

Here is a short list of things that need done around the home before winter sets in for a few months.

Remove your garden hoses from hose bibs, if you leave the hoses on even though it is called a frost free hose bib ice will form in the hose and can travel back inside the hose bib and cause it to freeze and break, they cannot drain all the way if the hose is attached

- Close or cover crawl space vents to prevent freezing air from blowing through and freezing pipes.
- Clean your gutters of leaves so that they can drain right and make sure that they drain into the yard and not the crawlspace
- Have your furnace serviced and gone through to make sure that it is ready to keep you comfortable all winter, is it clean, is the blower motor lubricated and ready to go, is the heat exchanger in tip top shape or is it cracked and pumping CO2 into your home?
- If you heat with a woodstove then make sure your chimney is cleaned and drafting properly
- If you have gas appliances or wood heat make sure batteries in smoke detectors and carbon dioxide detectors are good and the units are functioning.
- Change the furnace filter monthly or as needed to keep your furnace pumping out that heat as efficiently as possible.
- Do you have a fireplace or woodstove for secondary heat, when was the last time the chimney was cleaned. That is a very important item to check off before winter as the chimney can build up with soot, birds' nests, and creosote that can start a chimney fire.



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FURNACE FILTERS (yes we are saying it again, this is important)

DO YOU HAVE A FURNACE IN YOUR HOUSE? DO YOU REGULARLY CHECK AND CHANGE YOUR FURNACE FILTERS? EVEN IF YOU HAVE THE AIR CONDITIONING ON IT IS STILL USING THE FURNACE TO MOVE THE AIR IN YOUR HOME. IF YOU DO NOT THEN YOU ARE ONLY HURTING YOUR WALLET AND YOUR FURNACE AND AIR CONDITIONER. CHANGING FURNACE FILTERS REGULARLY HELP KEEP THE AIR FLOWING THROUGH YOUR FURNACE EASILY AS DESIGNED BY THE FACTORY AND ALSO HELPS PREVENT PERMANENT DAMAGE. (CONTINUED BELOW)



ENERGY EFFICIENT HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS THAT WILL SAVE YOU MONEY!

IF YOUR FILTER IS DIRTY OR PLUGGED THEN YOUR POWER BILL IS GOING TO REFLECT THE FACT THAT YOUR AIR CONDITIONER HAS TO RUN LONGER TO COOL YOUR HOUSE DOWN AND VICE VERSA WHEN HEATING. THE OTHER THING TO CONSIDER IS THAT YOU INSTALL A GOOD QUALITY FILTER. IF YOU PICK IT UP AT THE STORE AND CAN SEE CLEARLY THROUGH IT CHANCES ARE IT WILL NOT CATCH MUCH DIRT AND DUST. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A FILTER ALL THAT DUST THAT BUILDS UP ON YOUR COUNTERTOPS IS ALSO BUILDING UP INSIDE YOUR FURNACE AND AIR CONDITIONER AND CAUSING IT TO NOT WORK EFFICIENTLY AS WELL. AS THE PRICE OF GAS AND EVERYTHING ELSE GOES UP THESE LITTLE THINGS CAN HELP KEEP YOUR MONEY IN YOUR POCKET WHERE IT BELONGS

A little Plumbing History

Plumbing has not always been a given. Most of us take it for granted. There are still people that remember having to make a run to the outhouse in the middle of winter. Plumbing has made leaps and strides over the years even though most of the basic principals are still the same. Toilets used to use 5 or more gallons of water for just one flush. Now they have toilets that use .8 gallons per flush. Lavatories used to have two separate faucets on them or cold water only, now they have tempering faucets and many different styles and colors, shapes and sizes. Homes that were lucky enough to have indoor plumbing had a bathtub. Now we have walk in Jacuzzi tubs in our homes, stand alone overflowing tubs and cutting edge designs like never before, showers with multiple showerheads and body sprays, even some showers that are a combination steam room on top of it all. Water heaters used to be a thing of dreams and hopes, now there is one in every house and they can range from a basic tank type electric water heater to a tank less on demand water heater to a hybrid water heater with recirculation pumps so you always have hot water right at your finger tips. Dishwashers were called hands, now we have fancy equipment that you don't even have to rinse the dishes off and sure enough those dishes still get clean. Don't take your plumbing for granted, at one time it was a dream, then it was a luxury, now it is common place and changing as fast as computer technology. Every day there is something new and exciting going on in the plumbing industry.

How Important Is Attic Insulation?

Have you ever looked up in your attic to see what you have up there for attic insulation? Most people don't often think about looking up there. I know I don't... Attic insulation is a valuable part of your home. If you have all the energy efficient equipment, doors and windows but only have 3" of insulation up there your heating and cooling bill is still going to be largely effected. The more of that itchy pink stuff you have on top of your ceiling the better off you are.



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What happens when.....

You are out of town and your water line or something in your home breaks (water line, washing machine hose, or connection on your toilet) and no one is there to shut it off? Well, we have started installing a valve that can help prevent your home from being ruined. You can set this valve for a set Gallons or minutes and at that point it will shut off and not let any more water pass. We can get them for residential homes or businesses. We just installed one in Boise Rigging's office. His is set for minutes. If water flows past what he sets for minutes over the weekend or at night when no one is around then the water will be shut off and prevent damage to all of his expensive machinery and equipment. It is simple to operate with the digital control that just mounts on your wall. If this sounds like some peace of mind that you would be interested in or want more information please contact and we will get you the information. (You might also check with your insurance company and see if this will bring you a discounted insurance rate)

TO SAVE YOU MONEY WE OFFER HIGH EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY RHEEM HOT WATER HEATING PRODUCTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO START SAVING MONEY WITH RHEEM PROFESSIONAL ENERGY STAR WATER HEATERS PLEASE CALL US FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT 208-362-6200 OR CONTACT US ON OUR WEBSITE AT <http://www.drakemechanical.com/contact-us.htm>



**LOOK FOR THE GUYS IN THE
BIG.....
YELLOW
TRUCKS!**



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