

1. Simple Fixes to Expensive Problems
2. The Facts on Indoor Air Quality
3. Indoor Air Quality Solutions
4. 10 Things To Do To "Go Green"

Simple Fixes to Expensive Problems

Make sure Your AC's On and Off Switch works this Summer

Your Air Conditioning System has an on and off switch outside, which is called a **Contactor**. We have found that over **80% of contactors fail every year** because they are not able to keep up with the cycling of the system. It's a simple and relatively inexpensive pre-emptive move that could save you in the Heat of the Summer.

Contactor Replacement: \$163.00



Water can be Air Conditioning's and a Homeowner's Worst Enemies

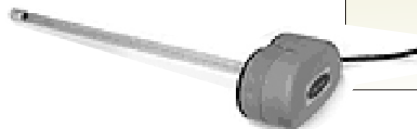
Air conditioners can routinely produce 20 gallons of water a day that it must flush away through its drain lines. One of the worst calls that we get this time of year is from a homeowner indicating that they have water leaking through a ceiling in an attic or in your basement. This can be prevented by making sure your drain line is flushed at the beginning of the cooling system. If you install an E-Z Trap future drain line clogging can be mitigated.

E-Z Trap Installed: \$184.00

Clean Coils Can Lead to Better Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Air for Your Family (The Same Goes for Your Filters)

Air conditioning system coils are a repository for the more than 70 million particles that are in the average America home. Many of them are clogged with dirt and debris and some of them are breeding grounds for mold. The same can be said for filters which are designed to capture and take out the air as many of those particles a possible. As a result, air flow is restricted as it passes through coils and filters. Have your Air Conditioning Coils cleaned; change or clean your filters and consider a UV Light to kill the mold in the AC Coil.

Coil Cleaning: \$273.00
UV Light, Installed: \$775.00



Call Today 301-281-6300

Fight Mold & Improve Air Quality

30% Off

Ultraviolet Light
Not valid with any other offer

SPRING SERVICE

\$89.00

Tune up Your system for the Summer
Not valid with any other offer

High Efficiency Systems

Up to \$1,100 Cash Back

10 Year Warranty with proper maintenance
Not valid with any other offer

Did You Know?

90% of the average American's day is spent indoors and more than 40% in your home?

- With the introduction of air conditioning, maintaining proper indoor air quality ranks as the single biggest challenge for homes: 96.7% of American homes have at least one indoor air quality issue.
- Nearly 60% of all Americans are allergic to at least one of the 10 most common allergens, including dust mites, cats, ragweed and some forms of fungus and mold. These can all be found in the home*.
- Children are particularly susceptible to the affects of poor indoor air quality. Asthma cases are fastest growing among children under 5 years old and asthma affects 10-12% of all children ages 5 to 17. It is triggered or made worse by dust, allergens, particulate pollution and second-hand smoke, all of which can be found in the home.

(*Arbes, S. Journal of Allergy & Clinical Immunology, August 2005; vol 116; pp 377-383.)

How can you know if your home is affected by poor indoor air quality? Look for these signs*:

- Unusual and noticeable odors, stale or stuffy air
- Noticeable lack of air movement
- Dirty or faulty central heating or air conditioning equipment
- Damaged flue pipes or chimneys
- Un-vented combustion air sources for fossil fuel appliances
- Excessive humidity
- Tightly constructed or remodeled home
- Presence of molds and mildew

- Health reaction after remodeling, weatherizing, using new furniture, use of household or hobby products, or moving into a new home
- Feeling noticeably healthier outside the home

(*<http://www.montana.edu/wwwcxair/hazards.htm#signs>)

If any of these conditions exist, then your home air quality is in need of improvement!

What can be done to solve the indoor air quality problem in your home that fits into your lifestyle and is a cost-effective, ongoing solution to the problem?

Critical Steps: Ventilation, Humidity and Temperature Control

- Keep the home between 68 and 72 degrees F
- Maintain humidity between 30 and 50%
- Ventilate properly

In our region, central cooling often causes us to rely on the heating and cooling system to re-circulate the air in the home. Fresh air is no longer introduced through windows. Moisture, contamination and thermal control problems result. Improvements in the HVAC system address all three problems:

- Have the HVAC system inspected and cleaned to ensure proper function
- Install a programmable thermostat
- Consider installing a humidification and dehumidification system
- Measure ventilation and install a ventilation upgrade into the existing HVAC system

The Next Step: Filtration and Decontamination

The effectiveness of these three measures can be further enhanced with the use of whole-house filtration and decontamination. Data from the American Thoracic Society suggests that the use of high-efficiency filters, including HEPA filters, remove upwards of 60-90% of the small particles from the air. The removal of these lung irritants was associated with improved cardio-vascular function, a particular concern among the elderly. Finally, research has shown conclusively that control of microscopic organisms (mold, bacteria) within the HVAC system is the most effective way to maintain the system's efficiency and cleanliness while reducing biological contamination of the air you breathe.

- Install a **filtration system that extracts these particles.**
- Consider installing **AtmosAir Purification System, an all-natural airborne ionization system that removes spores, ultra-fine particles, other contaminants and the associated odor from the air.**
- Install an **Ultra Violet light on you indoor coil, providing focused treatment against mold and bacteria build-up.**

We at Argent Heating and Cooling believe that your indoor comfort solutions should include clean air purification, filtration and abatement solutions that improve the quality of your indoor air, because our customers deserve to breathe cleaner, healthier air. Please call us today so that we can assist you with your Indoor Air Quality needs.

Top 10 Things To Do To Stop Global Warming

Global Warming is a dramatically urgent and serious problem. We don't need to wait for governments to find a solution for this problem: each individual can bring an important help adopting a more responsible lifestyle: starting from little, everyday things. It's the only reasonable way to save our planet, before it is too late. Here is a list of 10 of the 50 simple things that everyone can do in order to fight against and reduce the Global Warming phenomenon: some of these ideas are at no cost, some other require a little effort or investment but can help you save a lot of money!

Don't forget to check out the original site from which this list was taken:

[Http://globalwarming-facts.info](http://globalwarming-facts.info)

1. Replace a regular incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb (cfl)

CFLs use 60% less energy than a regular bulb. This simple switch will save about 300 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

2. Install a programmable thermostat*

Programmable thermostats will automatically lower the heat or air conditioning at night and raise them again in the morning. They can save you \$100 a year on your energy bill.

3. Move your thermostat down 2° in winter and up 2° in summer

Almost half of the energy we use in our homes goes to heating and cooling. You could save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year with this simple adjustment.

4. Clean or replace filters and Clean AC Coil on your furnace and air conditioner*

Cleaning a dirty air filter can save 350 pounds of carbon dioxide a year. Clean coils can save you more than 600 lbs of carbon dioxide a year.

5. Choose energy efficient appliances when making new purchases*

Look for the Energy Star label on new appliances to choose the most energy efficient products available. Save up to 30% on energy with Energy Star Rated HVAC

6. Service your HVAC Systems*

Servicing your system can save 400 lbs of carbon dioxide a year and up to 10% on your energy bills

7. Wrap your water heater in an insulation blanket

You'll save 1,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year with this simple action. You can save another 550 pounds per year by setting the thermostat no higher than 50°C.

8. Move your fridge and freezer

Placing them next to the cooker or boiler consumes much more energy than if they were standing on their own. For example, if you put them in a hot cellar room where the room temperature is 30-35°C, energy use is almost double and causes an extra 160kg of CO2 emissions for fridges per year and 320kg for freezers.

9. Defrost old fridges and freezers regularly

Even better is to replace them with newer models, which all have automatic defrost cycles and are generally up to two times more energy-efficient than their predecessors.

10. Don't let heat escape from your house over a long period.

When airing your house, open the windows for only a few minutes. If you leave a small opening all day long, the energy needed to keep it warm inside during six cold months (10°C or less outside temperature) would result in almost 1 ton of Co2 Emissions.



***Email us if you would like Argent to help you with these programs**

You can find more at: <http://globalwarming-facts.info/>

Argent is involved in Revitalizing "Green" Home in Adams Morgan

Click on this link to read the full story

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=89772454&sc=emaf>

npr

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ENVIRONMENT

This Old House: Minus the Toxins

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Interactive Graphic >>



Interactive Graphic: Tour a Green Kitchen

All Things Considered, April 22, 2008 · Real estate agent Amy Levin bought a historic, three-story house in Washington, D.C., more than a year ago, gutted it and rebuilt it.

But it wasn't your standard renovation. Levin used as many environmentally friendly, nontoxic and recycled materials as she could find, and she's seeking what is known as LEED platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. If she gets it, her home will be one of a handful of rehabs nationwide with the distinction.

LEED, which stands for leadership in energy and environmental design is the most widely used set of standards for "green" building. The rating system has four tiers: certified, silver, gold and platinum, with platinum the highest designation.

On a tour of her late 19th century home in Washington's Mt. Pleasant neighborhood, Levin pointed out to Robert Siegel all the special materials she used to make home environmentally friendly.

She bought a front-loading washer and dryer to cut down on water and energy use, and a double flush toilet to save

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[Enlarge](#) Heidi Glenn, NPR

Amy Levin sits on the porch of her newly rehabbed environmentally-friendly town house in Washington, D.C.

