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BEAT THE HEAT

SUMMER SURVIVAL

Florida is known as the Sunshine State for a reason. With sunshine comes heat, which brings temperatures that aren't the most pleasant. Although dealing with the sun is inevitable, keeping your home from not turning into a sauna is easily achievable! Below are some tips to ensure your summer survival.



APPLIANCES

During the hours of the day when the sun is blistering, take advantage of the sunshine and grill outside or use the microwave in order to avoid using the oven.

- Keep your refrigerator door closed as much as possible.
- Dry your dishes by hand.
- Run your washer and dryer at night and with the full-

recommended load.

AIR FILTERS

- Clean or replace monthly. Dirty air filters decrease airflow and increase energy usage.

CEILING FANS

- Run to help circulate the air, as they will make you feel cooler.

- Be sure to have fans off if you are not in the room, as they do not lower the temperature.
- Run ceiling fans counter-clockwise in order to push air downward to give the breeze effect.

CURTAINS

- Keep blinds and shades closed. When open, the sun will increase the temperature of the room.

In the end, even though it will be scorching outside, it doesn't mean your home can't be comfortable without having to turn down your A/C to arctic mode. By following these tips, it will not only help to keep your home cool, it will factor into your energy bill as well.

Climate Control Services 877.738.9101

"ON OR OFF?" THAT IS THE QUESTION

Your Vacation and Your A/C



Summer is here! And so is the time for the classic family vacation. While most folks plan for their pets and plants while away, many forget another important issue: their home's climate control. To help ensure that you return to a fresh-smelling, mold-free home, consider the following:

Even if you're away for just a few days, let alone weeks or months, don't turn off your A/C. In South Florida, 90+ degree days outdoors can quickly soar into triple digits indoors, which, along with high humidity, creates the perfect conditions for the growth of mold and mildew. And not just where you can see it. Spores may cling and grow inside electronics, kitchen appliances, behind wallpaper and more, where cleanup isn't nearly as simple as scrubbing your bathroom tile.

At Climate Control Services, we recommend leaving your system on and set to 80 degrees for homes and 78 degrees for condominiums. This generally keeps the temperature in our home high enough to save a few dollars in electricity costs while you're away, but also keeps the damaging humidity in check.

If you don't already have one, we highly recommend a programmable thermostat so your inside temperature can be adjusted ahead of time to correspond with the coolest and hottest times of the day and night. This can also be used to control humidity when you are away from your home. Set your programmable thermostat to 84 degrees and set the program to run at 72 degrees for two hours beginning at 6am.

Don't ruin the end of a great vacation by returning home to a musty, or worse, mold-filled home. It's easy with a little planning and help from Climate Control Services!

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DON'T GET BLOWN AWAY

Protect Your A/C During a Hurricane



Unfortunately, it's that time of year again: hurricane season. As Floridians, however, we're seasoned veterans, though, right? Not necessarily. Many folks overlook their A/C systems during their storm prep. Don't! Your climate control system is expensive to replace. We recommend the following when a big blow is comin':

When the hurricane is approaching:

- Turn off A/C unit off. (thermostat and breaker)
- Protect your unit with a tarp and/or plywood. (make sure the unit is off first)
- Secure your unit if it isn't already.
- Trim and/or remove nearby shrubs and debris.

After the storm is over:

- Do not turn your unit on immediately after a storm
- Check to make sure nothing is damaged and there has been no flooding.
- If you're in doubt in any way, contact the professionals at Climate Control Services to ensure your unit is running properly.

Hurricane season is not a pleasant time for anyone. But it's always a smart to move to be prepared and protect your investments. These small tips can help to make sure that your A/C unit makes it thorough the unfortunate event of a hurricane.

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ASK DOCTOR DRAFTY

What's In Your Duct?



Dear Dr. Drafty,

My neighbor Paul keeps on insisting that I need to get my air ducts checked. He has been going on and on about the health risks dirty air ducts can cause, especially since we have a smoker in the house. He even said that a clean ducts could increase the life of my A/C unit. Is this true or is he just blowing hot air?

Brandon Bush
Royal Palm, Florida

Well Brandon, your neighbor definitely brings up some good points. He really hit the nail on the head on one point that you may need to get your air ducts checked sooner than expected since your wife is a smoker. On average ductwork needs to be checked every three to five years, but having a smoker in the household and other various factors such as pet hair can shorten that average time frame.

Unfortunately, air ducts mostly get overlooked during typical of maintenance. However, they play a major role in the health of a household. Dirty air ducts can have especially adverse effects on the health of people with asthma and allergies. They can also contribute to an increased risk for getting a cold or the flu.

As a doctor, I would recommend that you should listen to your neighbor. He brought up valid points, especially regarding the health risks of not cleaning your ducts. Aside from the health benefits, clean air ducts can lower utility costs by improving airflow and improving the overall efficiency of your A/C unit.

Doctor Drafty welcomes all your cooling- and heating-related questions and concerns. Please email to DoctorDrafty@ClimateControlServices.com.

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