

# Your Comfort Solution

Ideas To Improve Your Home Life

Volume 9 Issue 2

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**DuAll**  
Heating & Cooling  
www.DuAllHeating.com



## YOUR MONEY

### How to keep it!

Doesn't look like the economy is getting better anytime soon so again here are a few more ideas to keep the money in your pocket rather than theirs.

• Reconsider your landline.  
If you have good service where you live, the biggest adjustment to giving up your landline may be psychological, not practical. People have saved as much as \$600 a year. About a third of all U.S. households are cell phone only.

• Computer  
Talk free via your computer.  
Use Skype, Google Chat or for Apple products use FaceTime. These are free programs you can download from the internet.

Do your consumer research on the Internet and buy as many things as you can on-line. You'll save time and the small shipping fees are much less than what you'd spend driving around in a vehicle.

• Cable bills  
If you really want to keep your cable, see if your provider will better its offer. If the company digs in, tell them you want to cancel. You should be transferred to the retention department, where they will work with you to lower your bill.

• Grocery Bills  
One of the best ways to save money cooking for the family is to substitute vegetables for meat once or twice a week. There are certain vegetables, in fact, that if cooked correctly satisfies in much the same way meat does (Portobello mushroom and eggplant are two common substitutes), and they're often much less expensive. There are also healthy proteins like tofu that work nicely as inexpensive and filling meat substitutes.

• Driving  
Speeding is a very expensive and wasteful habit. Driving fast may get you there quicker - but you're wasting precious fossil fuel and spending more time and money at the gas pump.

## MY WORD



### Tales of multiple 100 degree days!

Hottest group of days since 1947. Have I got a story to tell you.....a few, actually.

First, there was a lady who cancelled her call and accused us of

being irresponsible when we called to let her know we were running about 30 minutes late. Then there was the business owner who complained that his unit wasn't cooling fast enough when in fact, he turned his AC off at 5 the night before and came in at 9 the next day, when temp was over 80, and expected it to drop immediately. Also, a hotel who thought dirty units that weren't working properly but were able to "keep up all the other years" should be able to keep up now. Must be something else wrong. "Changing a control board fixed it in the past!" Finally, a lady who called to say her unit couldn't maintain the temperature in her house. When we arrived, she had her back door fully open so her dog could come and go as it pleased and has been this way all day.

As you can see, it has been a very challenging summer. I sincerely hope we were able to help everyone who called. There were plenty of days we worked well into the night. Thank you for your patience.

As if dealing with the summer heat wasn't enough for you, now there is an upcoming regional standards change, which is part of the 2007 Energy Bill. If you have an old furnace or one that has been breaking down a lot, you may want to read the article on page two of this newsletter. May 1st is not that far away.

Every season, I remind everyone to change their filters. And every season we do a lot of "No Heat" service calls that are a direct result of a dirty filter. To help you even further, we will be developing a program to send out filter change reminders as well as humidifier panels, HEPA filters, etc. It will be email based and hopefully a good benefit for being a DuAll Heating & Cooling customer. Take a look at the photo. This is what happens if you forget to put a filter back in place



or if your filter is so dirty, the air-flow has p u l l e d the filter into the b l o w e r compartment and is drawing air from AROUND the filter. Don't let this be you.

You may or may not have noticed that we recently rolled out our new and improved website. We put a lot of work into it and are very proud of how it came out. We also now have a presence on Facebook and would love for everyone to "like" us. I am still learning how to post photos and such so it should just get better and more informative every day. Post a comment and give us suggestions. We want to know what we could do to be of more service to you.

Football season: Da Bears! What more can I say.

All the best!

Larry

### Special Points of Interest

- How to keep it!
- Fall Cleaning
- Flue Vaccinations
- Referral Coupon
- 2007 Energy Bill



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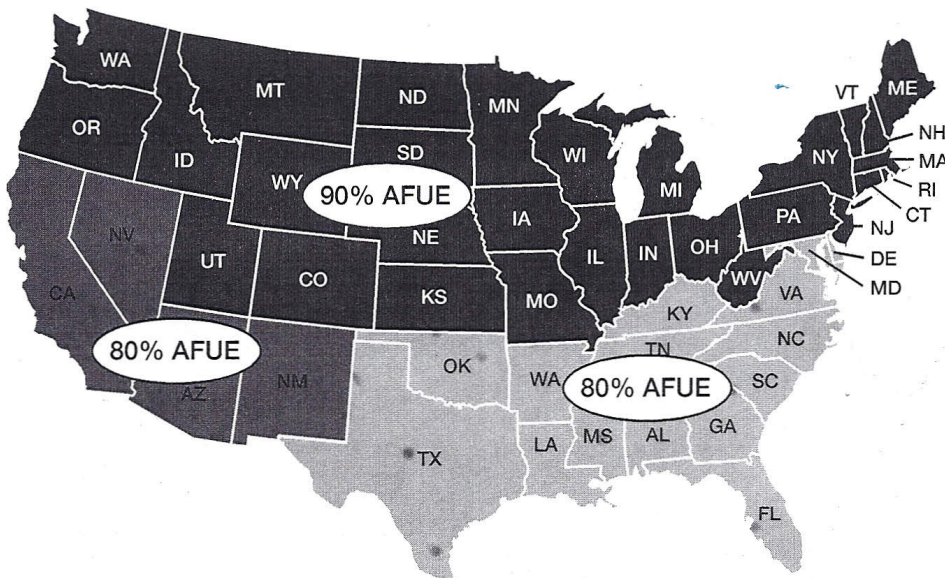
## YOUR HOME

## Northerners...Should You Replace Your Furnace Today?

In 2007, the U.S. Congress passed the Energy Security and Independence Act (the "2007 Energy Bill"). This bill set a new precedent by allowing the Department of Energy (DOE) to develop regional standards for the installation location of heating and cooling equipment. In northern states, high-efficiency furnaces are required after May 1, 2013.

### Will This Affect You?

Those who will be impacted the most by the new regional standards are people that live in the North Region and have a non-condensing gas furnace. The upcoming regional standards will require that gas furnaces installed in the North Region have at least 90% Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) rating, compared to the current 78% AFUE, effectively excluding the use of non-condensing furnaces and requiring the installation of condensing furnaces in the North Region. Will you be affected? See for yourself what the DOE considers the North Region:



### How Will This Impact You?

If you live in the north Region, you may be looking at costly issues when it comes time to replace your existing furnace. The three main issues likely to arise when replacing a non-condensing

furnace with a condensing furnace:

- **Equipment space constraints**
- **Exhaust venting requirements**
- **Condensate disposal**

Many homes have limited space for furnaces, and condensing furnaces and their different space requirements may not fit in your furnace's current location. This could mean renovations, knocking down walls, and losing living space. An alternative would be to relocate the equipment, but this brings other issues. Requirements for venting the exhaust for condensing furnaces differ from those for non-condensing units. What if the best new venting path for the condensing furnace runs through space that belongs to a neighbor? Also, if the non-condensing unit used a common vent with other appliances, it may be necessary to resize the vent if one of the appliances is removed. Finally, the exiting exhaust is designed to be an appropriate distance dictated by the building code from features like windows, doors, dryers, vented gas regulators, etc. The

produced by the new furnace. If the current unit is a non-condensing furnace, there was no condensate. A condensing furnace, however, will require attention to collecting and disposing of condensate before it can freeze and lead to water overflow, which can damage the building.

A solution to some of these issues would be to 'simply' move the equipment. Unfortunately, that would necessitate re-designing and re-sizing the duct system, as well as installing new components. Additionally, moving the furnace would also require re-routing the gas piping and electrical power. Are you prepared for all these possible (and likely) issues? Is your wallet?

### What Will You Do?

The new regional standards will require the installation of condensing furnaces in the North Region starting on May 1, 2013. It may be wise to upgrade your current, older non-condensing gas furnace for a new non-condensing gas furnace before that date. Otherwise, you will likely be required to install a condensing furnace and deal with the added complications. DuAll Heating & Cooling can provide an estimate that includes both furnace options.

### Tips to Save Energy

Turn the valves under the kitchen and bathroom sinks halfway off. When you open a faucet above, the water won't come gushing out, but there'll be plenty to wash dishes or brush teeth.

new furnace must also comply with code, and its venting path may require the unit to be moved, even if there is enough room at the current location!

The third major technical issue would be how to dispose of the water condensate

## HOUSEHOLD TIP

## Fall Cleaning

In the past, once-a-year cleaning tasks were done in the spring. Over the years, I've gradually moved many of them to the fall. It just makes more sense.

If you have friends or family over for Thanksgiving or winter holidays, fall is the perfect time to do these things. It will ensure that you have a cleaner house and don't end up putting things off until the last minute. It makes the holidays a lot less stressful.

### Chandeliers & Light Fixtures

Fall is the best time to clean chandeliers, light globes, and light diffusers. You are probably going to have people over for the holidays, and let's face it – that's the only time you notice how dirty your lights are.

The easiest way to clean a chandelier is to leave it where it is. Taking apart the chandelier creates a much larger job, and you might not know how to put everything back together again. Get a step stool or a

ladder and clean with a damp cloth. Another method is to use two cotton gloves – one sprayed with window cleaner and one dry.

Next you should tackle the light globes on ceiling fans and other fixtures. You should do a room at a time. Detach the globes carefully and let them soak while you are cleaning that room. Rinse and wipe them clean and replace them afterward. It's not difficult, but most people have a lot of light fixtures. You'll notice a change in lighting immediately. Don't forget your porch lights.

### Furniture and Rugs

Move heavy furniture and mop or vacuum underneath it. This only has to be done once a year, so don't break your back doing it more often.

Turn over area rugs and vacuum the backs of them. This will help get out any dirt that is hiding out at the base of the rug fibers. Never beat an area rug to clean it. It will break down the rug backing and fibers.

### Polish Silver

Most people only use their good silver around the holidays, so this is the perfect time to polish silver serving pieces and tarnished silver flatware.

### Attic

When the weather cools down, it's the best time to get up there and get rid of your dust and mildew breeding factory. All you have to do is take a vacuum up into the attic, start at the ceilings, and work your way down. If you've never been in your attic or just don't want to try this project yourself (some attics require some dangerous maneuvering), you can hire someone to do it for you.

The benefit is that you will increase the air quality in the whole house. You'll also have a clean place for storage. Be sure to use a dust mask and protective eyewear, especially if you've never cleaned your attic. You are going to create a lot of particle clouds floating around up there. Check for wet areas caused by roof leaks.

## YOUR BODY

## Flu Vaccinations

### Why should I get vaccinated?

Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. Every flu season is different, and influenza infection can affect people differently. Even healthy people can get very sick from the flu and spread it to others. During a regular flu season, about 90 percent of deaths occur in people 65 years and older. The "seasonal flu season" in the United States can begin as early as October and last as late as May.

During this time, flu viruses are circulating in the population. An annual seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to reduce the chances that you will get seasonal flu and lessen the chance that you will spread it to others. When more people get vaccinated against the flu, less flu can spread through that community.

*There are two types of vaccines:*

- The "flu shot"- an inactivated vaccine (containing killed virus) that is given with a needle, usually in the arm. The flu shot is approved for use in people older than 6 months, including healthy people and people with chronic medical conditions.
- The nasal-spray - a vaccine made with live, weakened flu viruses that is given as a nasal spray (sometimes called LAIV for "Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine"). The viruses in the nasal spray vaccine do not cause the flu. LAIV is approved for use in healthy people 2 through 49 years of age who are not pregnant.

Seasonal flu vaccines protect against the three influenza viruses that will be most common during the upcoming season. About 2 weeks after vaccination, antibodies that provide protection against the influenza viruses in the vaccine develop in the body.

Everyone who is at least 6 months of age should get a flu vaccine this season. It's

especially important for some people to get vaccinated. Those people include the following:

- People who are at high risk of developing serious complications like pneumonia if they get sick with the flu. This includes:
  - People who have certain medical conditions including asthma, diabetes, and chronic lung disease.
  - Pregnant women.
  - People 65 years and older
  - People who live with or care for others

who are high risk of developing serious complications. This includes:

- household contacts and caregivers of people with certain medical conditions including asthma,

diabetes, and chronic lung disease.

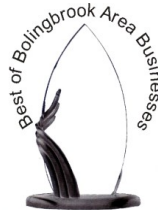


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# Your Comfort Solution

Ideas To Improve Your Home Life

**DuAll**  
Heating & Cooling  
419 Foxborough Trail  
Bolingbrook, IL 60440  
(630) 378-0036  
www.DuAllHeating.com



DuAll Heating and Cooling is a family owned and operated business based in Bolingbrook, Illinois. We are licensed, bonded and insured. We service all types of furnaces, air conditioners and water heaters. We currently install Trane, Amana, Ruud, and Goodman Heating and Air conditioning equipment. These companies offer our customers the most value and best warranties. Indoor air quality is a very serious issue. DuAll is constantly learning new ways to improve our customer's living space. One way is through duct cleaning, which we currently offer. Our customers reside in Naperville, Bolingbrook, Romeoville, Woodridge, Lisle, Downers Grove, Lemont, Plainfield and other surrounding communities. Our philosophy is quite simple: We treat our customers as we would like to be treated. We are respectful, courteous, and above all, honest. DuAll is N.A.T.E. Certified, winner of the *Best of Bolingbrook Businesses Award* and a member of the Bolingbrook Chamber of Commerce.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Who said; "The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back in your pocket."

Answer: Will Rogers

## CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

### *When Should I Get Vaccinated?*

The Center for Disease Control recommends that people get vaccinated against influenza as soon as flu season vaccine becomes available in their community. Influenza seasons are unpredictable, and can begin as early as October.

### *Why Do I Need a Flu Vaccine Every Year?*

A flu vaccine is needed every year because flu viruses are constantly changing. It's not unusual for new flu viruses to appear each year. The flu vaccine is formulated each year to keep up with the flu viruses as they change.

Getting vaccinated each year provides the best protection against influenza throughout flu season.



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(630)247-1720

## Referral Coupon

Give this coupon to a friend, neighbor or relative and they will receive \$20 off their service call when they present the coupon. Fill out the info below and we'll credit your account \$20 towards future service, as our way of saying "Thanks!"



Please print: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Expires December 31, 2012