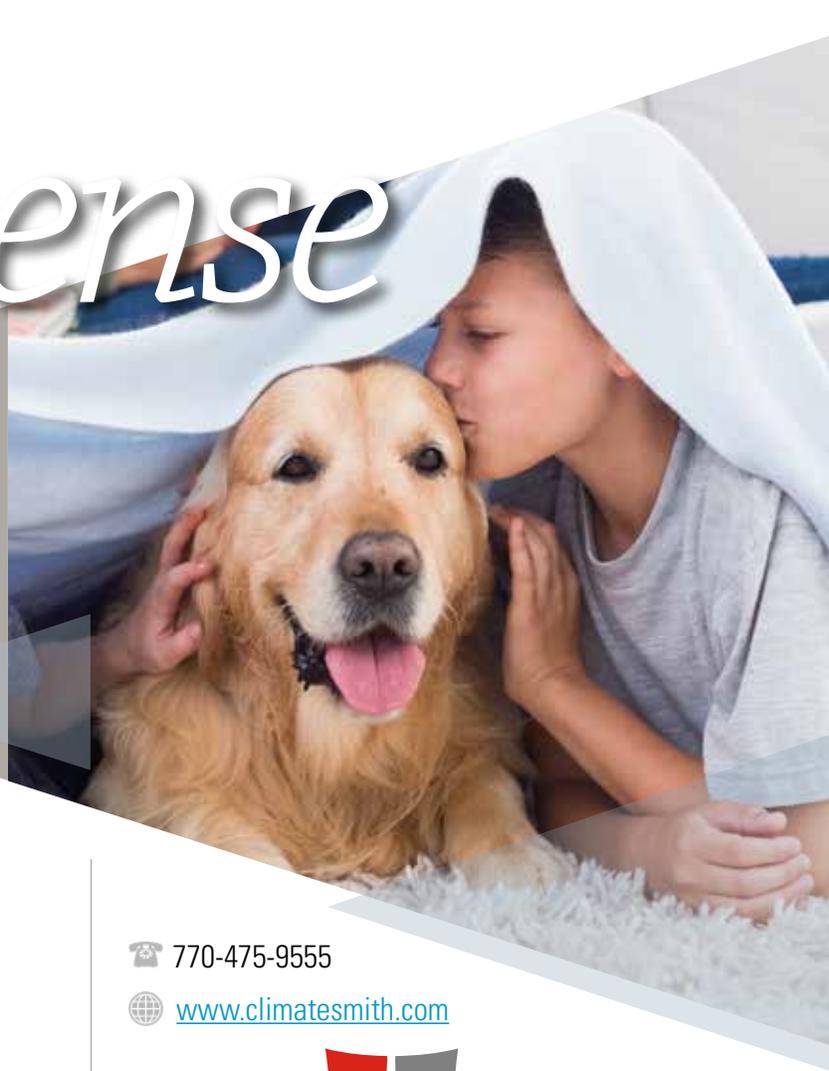


ClimateSmith's HOMEsense

Smart & simple ways to enrich your home living



Correcting Chilly Temps Inside Your Home

There are times when you're sure you've got a problem with your heating system. If you have no heat at all, if it's blowing only cold air or if you hear strange noises – such as metallic or scraping sounds – you can figure quite rightly that you should call for a repair.

At other times, it could take a while to notice the signs. Yet, a variety of winter heating problems could also be affecting your comfort, your utility bills and your health.

For example, are you hearing your heating system cycle on and off repeatedly? Heat cycling can be tough on your energy bills. The causes could range from dirty blowers, a dirty filter or a faulty thermostat. First, replace your dirty air filter. If that doesn't solve the problem, give us a call.

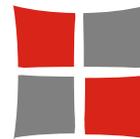
If you notice inconsistent comfort in your rooms – perhaps some are colder than others – you may have an issue with insulation or have cracks in doors and windows that should be sealed to prevent air loss. In addition, dirty coils, dirty air ducts or clogged vents could be interfering with consistency in your heating. Get that checked out.

Of even greater concern, a problem in your heating system can increase the risk of carbon monoxide exposure. CO is an invisible gas that has no smell or taste, and it can be deadly. Professional maintenance on your heating system each year helps prevent, detect and correct potential leaks. Also, be sure your household has carbon monoxide detectors to alert you if any issues are developing.

Call us if you have any problems with your heating system this winter.

☎ 770-475-9555

🌐 www.climatesmith.com



CLIMATESMITH LLC
BE WARM. STAY COOL. YEAR-ROUND

MY WORD

BY JAMES SMITH



Hello friends,

We've pulled together some interesting articles for this issue of our newsletter and hope you'll enjoy these tips and tidbits.

For most of us, our home is our most valuable financial asset, and taking care of this investment is a high priority. Sometimes, improvements are minor and cosmetic. Even steam cleaning your carpet or repainting an old piece of furniture can be a welcome change. Other times, changes are bigger decisions.

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Reheating Leftovers?

Microwaves are convenient, but they're not always the best way to return leftovers to their original tastiness.

For example, you can make your second round of take-out pizza just as delicious by reheating it on the stovetop.

- Simply heat a skillet to medium heat, drop in your slice and cover with a lid to hold in the steam.
- Depending on how thick your crust is, cook five to six minutes. Then remove the lid and continue cooking a couple more minutes to restore crispiness.
- If you have lots of slices left over, though, placing them on a baking sheet and rewarming in the oven will work too.

The oven is also a good option for fried foods, crusty breads, baked goods and many meats.

As a general rule, reheat your food in the same place it was prepared. Reheating baked or roasted chicken in the oven works well, as does reheating soup in a pot.

When you do choose the microwave, instead of reheating everything on one plate, allow for food density. For example, meat takes longer to heat than a roll or veggies.

Also, spread out the food in the dish. When the timer goes off, your clump of macaroni and cheese may still be cool on the inside even if the outside is warm and ready.

Tips to Lower Winter Heating Costs

Winter energy bills can put the big freeze on your family budget, especially since the average household uses about 50% of its energy dollars on heating and cooling. Try these practices to reduce your energy use and keep more of your cold, hard cash.

Check your temperature setting. Set the temp as low as possible when you are home and awake. If it helps, wear an extra layer, such as a pullover or sweater, as you work around the house, or relax under a cozy blanket during your downtime. Then, when you sleep or are away, lower the setting further. According to the Department of Energy, turning your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours can save around 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills. Note: Smart thermostats that operate with Wi-Fi technology enable you

to change the setting wherever you are. Call us if you'd like info.

Check for air leaks and openings.

Seal air leaks around plumbing pipes and add caulk or weather-stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows. If you have a fireplace that isn't in use, close the damper. Otherwise, it's like keeping a window open.

Let the sun warm your home. Open curtains and blinds during the day on the south side of your house. Close them at night to reduce drafts.

Maintain your heating system.

Replace your filter on a regular basis. Plus, scheduling seasonal maintenance improves energy efficiency and can also detect potential risks, such as dangerous carbon monoxide leaks. We can help. Call us for details.



Stay in touch with your thermostat.

Whether you're adjusting temperature settings away from home or potential comfort problems occur, smart thermostats keep you informed.

Don't leave your thermostat hanging on the wall all day without hearing from the family it loves to comfort.

To get a smart thermostat, call **ClimateSmith** at **770-475-9555** by **February 28, 2020** to save 10% off the installation.



Homemade Lasagna the Easy Way

There's nothing like pulling a pan of piping hot lasagna out of the oven when it's time to warm the tummy on a chilly winter night. You don't have to make it complicated, however, to make a delicious dish. Start your meal plan with a grocery list that includes:

- 26-ounce jar of pasta sauce
- (2) 30-ounce bags frozen large cheese ravioli
- 10-ounce box frozen chopped spinach, thawed
- 8-ounce bag shredded mozzarella
- ½ cup grated Parmesan

With ingredients at the ready, preheat your oven to 350 degrees and spray a 13x9 casserole dish with cooking spray. Next, spread a third of the pasta sauce in the dish. Then, place a dozen of the ravioli (still frozen) on top of the sauce. Be sure to drain excess water from the spinach before scattering over the ravioli. Top with half of the mozzarella and half of the Parmesan. Add another layer of ravioli, the remaining sauce and the rest of the cheese. After covering with foil, bake for 25 minutes. Uncover and bake till bubbly, another 5-10 minutes. To complete your meal, serve with your preferred salad and toasted garlic bread.

GET YOUR FURNACE CHECKED

Call for a pre-season tune-up, and get your furnace ready for an active winter. Annual maintenance lengthens equipment life, improves energy efficiency and helps prevent dangerous risks such as carbon monoxide leaks.

Plus, you can join our Comfort Club to save on this tune-up and future ones, too. Call **ClimateSmith** today at **770-475-9555**.

Rein in the Distractions

Experts say that there's actually no such thing as multitasking. You're just switching back and forth from one task to the other and not focusing fully on either. Most people recognize that multitasking can be dangerous – such as when texting and driving. However, it's not the speed of the vehicle that's the problem. Accidents with injury can even occur when texting and walking! Our brains simply aren't wired for this kind of divided attention. Remember, if you're doing two things at once to save time, you will lose time when you have to redo both tasks.



The Risks of Vaping

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal agencies have been highlighting links between e-cigarettes and lung disease. E-cigarettes (AKA e-cigs, vape pens and other names) sometimes look like regular cigarettes but can also resemble pens, USB sticks or other items.

For adult smokers who use e-cigarettes to help them kick the habit, vaping products provide a certain benefit. However, the CDC says e-cigs aren't safe for youth, young adults, pregnant women or adults who do not currently use tobacco products. Specifically noted concerns:

- Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is highly addictive, can harm adolescent brain development and is a danger for pregnant women and their developing babies.
- E-cigarette aerosol can also contain other substances that harm the body and send tiny particles into the lungs.
- Other unintended injuries can occur through ingesting e-cig liquid.

Best advice: if you don't vape, don't start.



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MY WORD

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We fully understand that upgrading your heating and cooling system is not a decision to take lightly. That's why we take care in showing you options that save energy and provide consistent comfort while being incredibly easy to operate. We're also committed to helping you maintain your system to make sure it serves you well for a long time. Call us whenever you need us.

Sincerely,

James Smith
 James Smith

P.S. We're thankful for the opportunity to have you as a customer and hope you'll tell others about us. Your friends are our friends, and we'd love to serve them too!



Fast Fix

Toothpaste "middle squeezers" are experienced at pushing out that last bit from the tube. But even if you start at the bottom, it's easy to slip up and press the middle. To be consistent, place a binder clip at the bottom, folding the tube over and moving the binder clip up as you go.

Are You PAYING for Air that's Making You SICK?

Airtight, energy-efficient homes provide the security of keeping air in. But they also risk re-circulating bad air that contains allergens, pollutants and dangerous molds.

Air inside your home can actually be 12 times more polluted than the air outside. That means you could be

shelling out money for air that's causing breathing and respiratory problems for you and your family.

Simply call **ClimateSmith** at **770-475-9555** no later than **February 28, 2020** for your FREE indoor air quality inspection.