



Carbon Monoxide: An Invisible Threat

Today's tightly built homes are energy-efficient, but they can also keep fresh air from circulating through the home. For this reason, carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning is of greater concern than ever before.

Carbon monoxide is an invisible gas produced by the incomplete combustion of household fuels. Over time, a dangerous amount of the gas can build up and cause serious illness.

The easiest way to protect your family from this danger is by having your system inspected annually by a qualified technician. All fuel-burning heating systems in the home, whether natural gas, propane, or oil, are susceptible to CO leaks. It is also highly recommended to install a carbon monoxide detector, a device similar to a smoke alarm. The CO detector monitors indoor air for the presence of carbon monoxide, and sounds an alarm if a dangerous level is reached.

The ideal scenario is a CO detector used in combination with a properly running home comfort system. Rely on **Edwin Stipe, Inc.** to provide regular maintenance. After all, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Call us at **877-337-8473** today.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

We want to take a moment to say "thank you." Two simple words, but too often they can be overlooked while we're all in the midst of our busy lives.

Our team at **Edwin Stipe, Inc.** truly appreciates the opportunity you give us to serve you when it comes to your heating and cooling needs. We hope you'll continue to rely on us, whether it's a maintenance call, emergency repair, or time to consider a new equipment installation or upgrade.

If one of your neighbors is ever in need of HVAC or plumbing services, we hope you'll think of us. You can be sure we'll treat anyone you refer to us with the same professionalism you've come to know and expect from us.

Again, thanks so much for choosing **Edwin Stipe, Inc.** We look forward to serving you — and your neighbors — for many years to come.

Sincerely,

The Edwin Stipe, Inc. Team

Edwin Stipe, Inc.

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Fall 2018



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The Age-Old Question: Repair Or Replace?

The last thing any homeowner wants to hear is that their heating system won't make it through another winter. Ignoring the signs of an aging and failing furnace or heat pump may lead to the unpleasant — and chilly — experience of not having heat when you need it most. On the other hand, purchasing a new high-efficiency system can actually be more cost-effective than continuing to repair your old, inefficient one. While we

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highly recommend an in-home assessment of your unit by a professional technician, consider the following to help decide if it's best to repair or replace your heating system.

What type of heating system do you have? Furnaces and heat pumps have different life expectancies. Depending on your use, a furnace has a working life of approximately 15 years, and heat pumps may be ready for replacement after only a decade. So if your system is less than 10 years old, chances are a service call will do the trick. For anything near or older than its typical lifespan, you may want to consider replacement versus repair.

Are you spending too much money on repairs? An out-of-warranty system that requires frequent repairs may be more than an expensive nuisance — it could also be unhealthy, and in some instances even unsafe. Old indoor coils, dirty burners and cracked heat exchangers not only affect the air you breathe, but they also lead to improper system operation.

How long do you plan on being in your home? If you're a short-timer in your home, you may be tempted to limp by and let the next owner worry about replacing the furnace. But another strategy would be to replace an old unit with high-efficiency equipment and roll it into the sale price of your home. At least that way, you'd get the advantage of enjoying the new equipment.

If you think it may be time to replace your heating system, make an appointment for an in-home evaluation now, before winter weather comes knocking. By evaluating the current condition of your equipment, we can help make your decision a little easier. ■

Question & Answer



Regular maintenance helps prevent breakdowns and extends the life of your HVAC equipment.

How can I be sure my furnace will be ready when cooler weather arrives?

Just like any mechanical equipment, heating systems require regular maintenance to maximize your investment and retain optimal performance. With cooler months approaching and furnace use increasing, a seasonal cleaning and tune-up by a qualified professional is the best way to ensure the longevity and efficiency of your system.

Even if your heating system shows no visible symptoms, undetected issues or failing parts can raise your utility bills and increase system noise. These problems can both increase the strain on your furnace and reduce its overall performance, setting you up for the possibility of costly repairs down the road. Let our expert service technicians help you keep warm as the weather cools down. ■

Top 10 signs it may be time to replace your heating system:

1. Your heating bills have skyrocketed.
2. Your heating system is more than 15 years old.
3. Your furnace is excessively noisy.
4. Your A/C is part of a matched central heating and A/C system, and needs to be replaced.
5. Some rooms are too hot and some are too cold.
6. You've been spending a lot of money on repairs.
7. Your home has indoor air quality problems.
8. You've added square footage to your home.
9. You just purchased an older home and "inherited" an older system.
10. You're simply not comfortable.

Water Heater Safety

Day in and day out, we rarely give a water heater a second thought. But problems can develop — as benign as a leak or as deadly as a horrific explosion — so safety precautions are necessary.

Proper installation is critical. The water heater's location must meet minimum clearance requirements and the surrounding area be kept free from combustible materials and chemicals.

With electric water heaters, the primary safety issues are leaks or tube breaks. Flue breaks or gaps with propane and gas water heaters are an additional safety concern.

Need to light the pilot? If you smell gas, do not light it. Leave the house immediately and call your fuel supplier.

As with all major appliances, regular water heater maintenance will provide years of service and peace of mind. ■



Set your water heater temperature at 120°F to protect loved ones from severe burning and scalding.

Tip

- When Daylight Savings Time ends on Nov. 4:
- Replace batteries & test smoke alarms
 - Switch direction of ceiling fans
 - Service your HVAC equipment.

Avoid The Heating Roller Coaster

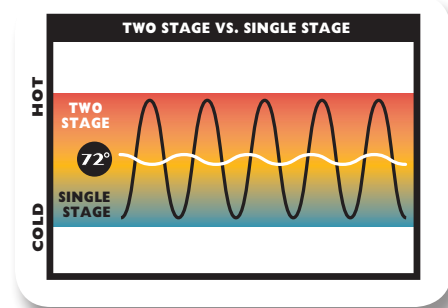
If it's time for a new furnace, you'll find you have the choice of either single-stage or two-stage equipment.

Single-stage equipment operates independently at full capacity to maintain your desired temperature. Once that temperature is reached, it shuts off and starts the cycle again.

A two-stage unit starts by running at about two-thirds of its heating capacity in an attempt to meet the heating demands of the home. When temperatures drop, power is added from the second stage to meet the need for increased heat.

Two-stage technology offers consistent indoor temperatures, quiet operation and cost efficiency. Because the unit primarily operates in lower-stage capacity, it burns less fuel.

For all of your heating needs, just give us a call. We'll be happy to help. ■



Two-stage heating reduces indoor temperature swings for greater efficiency.

Earth & Atmosphere

The Moon And Its Pull

The moon has long held a fascination for humans, providing us with countless traditions, myths and folklore. Since prehistoric times, we've scheduled our lives — and kept track of the change of seasons and time — by keeping a close watch on the moon. It also affects the rising and falling of the ocean's tides.

While the moon may have no direct effect on the weather, it does have a great deal to do with governing moisture. Not only does it control ocean tides, but it also influences groundwater tables. This gravitational effect on the flow of moisture in the soil and vegetation has long fed the belief that gardening and planting crops according to the phases of the moon is a natural and beneficial approach. Farmers and gardeners who embrace this practice follow a strict lunar cycle that guides them as to when to plant, when to prune and even when to weed. ■



The Full Moon that occurs closest to the date of the Autumnal equinox is known as the Harvest Moon. For 2018, the Harvest Moon will occur on Sept. 24.