



Tankless Water Heaters: The High-Efficiency And Eco-Friendly Choice

When you heat water using a traditional tank water heater, you're paying to keep the entire tank of water heated — whether you need hot water or not. A tankless water heater is more efficient since it heats water upon demand. Install one and you'll have an endless supply of hot water without wasting energy. Additional benefits of a tankless water heater include:

- **Efficiency:** Up to 40% more energy-efficient than a traditional “tank” water heater
- **Size:** Only about the size of a carry-on suitcase
- **Long-lasting:** Average lifespan is about 20 years or more
- **Eco-friendly:** Produces less CO2 (carbon dioxide) and N2O (nitrous oxide) than conventional water heaters.

Saving energy means lower energy bills and reducing your carbon footprint. Call **877-337-8473** to ask us about converting from a traditional propane or natural gas water heater to a propane or natural gas tankless water heater.

Big Comfort In A Small Package

Standard-size HVAC systems require ductwork to condition indoor air. However, many times in renovations or retrofits, there's simply not room for ductwork. In these cases, a ductless system is the perfect solution. Just like a full-size system, mini-size ductless systems are composed of an outdoor condensing unit and an indoor evaporator unit. But with a ductless system, the indoor unit is actually in the room it's going to cool or heat. Typically mounted near the ceiling, the indoor unit is connected directly to the outdoor unit by copper tubing and wiring. Refrigerant is cycled through the connecting lines to the indoor unit, where the air is cooled and circulated.

Ductless systems are perfect for sunrooms, home offices, guesthouses, workshops or any other room you want to independently cool and heat. Unlike window units, which are unsightly and noisy, ductless systems are compact in size, operate quietly and are mounted up and out of the way.

If a ductless system sounds like the solution you've been looking for, give **Edwin Stipe, Inc.** a call today.

Sincerely,

The Edwin Stipe, Inc. Team

Edwin Stipe, Inc.

Experts in Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning ... Since 1894.



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See Back for Special Offers

Spring-Clean Your Way to Health, Safety & Comfort

Spring is the time to shed old habits and embrace a positive plan for change. Here are a few “spring cleaning” tips to help you achieve a healthier, safer, energy-efficient and more comfortable home.

Health checklist

- Change your A/C's air filter(s). Not only will your entire system run more efficiently, but the quality of your indoor air will improve.
- Have your home checked for water

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leaks, often caused by squirrels eating roof flashings or the accumulation of leaves in roof valleys. Roof damage and wood rot, which are prime causes of mold and fungus growth, are issues that can lead to respiratory and health issues

- Have a qualified contractor perform an indoor air quality (IAQ) test for particulates, allergens, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and CO. There are IAQ systems that treat many of these indoor pollutants.

Safety checklist

- Make sure all smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers are in good working order.
- Make sure you're using the correct wattage in all light fixtures – better yet, replace them with energy-efficient bulbs.
- Safely store all toxic household chemicals and cleaning products, as well as oil and gas for yard equipment.

Comfort checklist

- If you don't already have a digital programmable thermostat, have a qualified HVAC contractor install one to help reduce energy costs. If you already have one, make sure it's programmed to your schedule.
- Have your air conditioning system cleaned and serviced. Not only will it operate more efficiently and at a higher cooling capacity, but a pre-season service call can identify problems that could leave you without air conditioning when you need it most.

And remember, our expertise in maintaining, repairing and installing HVAC systems can help you achieve the most comfortable indoor environment possible. ■



Not cleaning out your clothes dryer vent could set you up for a home fire. Clean the lint screen after every load. And have the dryer duct inspected and cleaned annually (depending on dryer usage) to remove any blockage in the dryer vent system.

Clean Air Filters Are A Must!

Changing your air filter may not sound like that big a deal, but we can assure you that failure to do so will negatively impact your home cooling experience, utility bill and health of your A/C system. Check your filter(s) every month so that during heavy-use months, and at a minimum, change every 2–3 months.



A clean air filter prevents dust and dirt buildup, which could lead to early HVAC system failure.

If an air filter isn't changed regularly, it will become clogged, causing your indoor unit fan to blow less air than specified, producing loss of cooling, hot and cold rooms and greater energy costs. Your indoor air quality will often suffer as well, due to your indoor unit fan sucking air from outside the interior of your home. You also risk allowing your indoor A/C coil and blower to get dirty which decreases cooling capacity and efficiency, and is costly to clean. If airflow is decreased too much from a clogged air filter, dirty blower, or indoor coil, your indoor coil will freeze, causing the A/C compressor to shut off or be damaged. ■

Tip

Improve your home's indoor air quality (IAQ) to reduce IAQ-related allergens like pollen, mold, dust, pet dander, bacteria, fabric fibers and cigarette smoke.

Keeping Your Cool

When the weather heats up, your central air conditioner quickly becomes one of the most important and indispensable appliances in your home. But carefree comfort requires a little preparation. Your air conditioning equipment needs a general cleaning and tune-up to stay in optimal running condition. Undetected problems such as refrigerant leaks or worn-out fan blades and motors can lead to reduced comfort levels, higher utility bills and a noisier system.



Without regular maintenance, a central air conditioner loses 5% of its efficiency every year.

Just like vehicles, regular maintenance extends the life of your air conditioner and helps maximize your investment. But a big benefit might end up being peace of mind. A seasonal check-up by a qualified professional can prevent unexpected equipment failure on the hottest day of the year. Let our expert service technicians help you keep cool all summer long. ■

Earth & Atmosphere

Nature's Sound And Fury

Thunderstorms are one of nature's most awe-inspiring phenomena. A single bolt of lightning is five times hotter than the surface of the sun and can discharge up to 100 million volts of electrical energy. Lightning occurs when electricity travels between the positive molecular charge at the top of a storm cloud and the negative charge at the bottom.

Thunder is the result of a set of sound vibrations created by lightning and travels at a speed of 1,088 feet per second. To measure your distance in miles from a thunderstorm, count the number of seconds between a flash of lightning and the sound of thunder and divide by five.

Spring conditions are ripe for the formation of thunderstorms that, in addition to lightning, can be accompanied by dangerous hail. The best way to stay safe during a thunderstorm is to stay indoors. If you're caught outside, stay away from trees, poles and metal objects. Remember, never underestimate this unpredictable force of nature. ■



Derechos are clusters of thunderstorms with wind gusts in excess of 60 mph.

Question & Answer

R22 Refrigerant Phase Out



R22 is an ozone-depleting refrigerant that will be completely unavailable by the year 2020.

Is an air conditioner refrigerant leak a major problem?

Refrigerant, often called Freon, is specifically made for cooling systems. If your A/C system has a refrigerant leak, the temperature of the air blowing out your grilles will not be as cool as it should be, which is 16–18 degrees lower than the room temperature.

It's not uncommon for an A/C system to leak a very small amount of refrigerant, taking years to produce insufficient cooling. A cooling check-up by a qualified A/C technician will be able to determine if your A/C system has the correct refrigerant charge.

If your A/C system is 12 years or older, it might use the refrigerant R22, which is being phased out by 2020. The new refrigerant for comfort cooling, R410A, is more efficient, more friendly to the environment, and much cheaper than R22. Consider a new central A/C system, because due to much higher efficiencies, the new system could pay for itself in just a few years. ■