



More Ouestions

In our last newsletter we discussed ways to lower your utility bills. This article will continue our question and answers by addressing the question,

"What can I do to prolong the life of my equipment?"

First and foremost we recommend changing the filter in your furnace. If you have a one inch filter we recommend changing it monthly (**Pro tip** – Avoid the washable filters). Some systems have filters from 2-5 inches wide, which can last anywhere from four months to a year. I once heard a technician say that he could trace a large percentage of his service calls to issues a dirty filters and the strain they cause. A clean filter protects the air that we breathe, while improving performance.

Second, have your system maintained annually. Our technicians will clean and check your home comfort system (to verify it is working within manufacturer specifications), test starting and operating components, and offer helpful tips on how to run your heating or cooling more effectively.

Call High Country HVAC today 801-296-0477, to schedule your next preventative maintenance, or to order a new filter.

TLC For Outdoor Equipment

Almost all residential central air conditioning systems rely on an outdoor condenser unit. Let's face it, it's not the most attractive possession you own, but it's one of the most valuable, and it's important to protect it from the elements.

Many people screen their air conditioners with plants and shrubs. It may look better to you, but over time the plants can grow too close to the unit, choking off the airflow and increasing your energy bills. Air conditioners need intake and exhaust air to operate efficiently, and that means plants and shrubs should be no closer than 24" around and 48" above your outdoor unit.

With your A/C powered off, wash your unit down occasionally with a garden hose (DO NOT use a pressure washer or chemicals). Trim away weeds and climbing vines by hand. It's important to remove vines, since they can wrap themselves around the internal components and can damage them. Don't use a mower or weed eater close to the air conditioner as it might damage the unit or the power supply leading to it.

We're here to help you maintain your HVAC equipment for peak performance. Give High Country HVAC a call at 801-296-0477.





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A PUBLICATION FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF HIGH COUNTRY HVAC, INC.

Summer 2022

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Saving Water Hits Home

Prior to 2020, the average American family was already using more than 300 gallons of water a week. Roughly 70 percent of this use occurs indoors. As many families now spend more time at home, we're using even more water around the house. And with more and more areas of the country experiencing water shortages each year, we all need to do our part to conserve this valuable resource. Consider implementing these water-saving measures around your home:

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In the kitchen:

- ✓ Run a full dishwasher instead of handwashing dishes.
- ✓ Soak large items overnight rather than rinsing them before washing.
- ✓ Reuse cooking water to water your plants.
- ✓ Compost to reduce running the water during garbage disposal use.

In the bathroom:

- ✓ Replace that 30-minute soak in the tub with a 10-minute shower.
- ✓ Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth.
- ✓ Install a high-efficiency toilet that uses less water to flush.
- ✓ Check pipes for leaks on a regular basis.

In the laundry room:

- ✓ Run only full loads of laundry.
- ✓ Upgrade to an energy-efficient washer, which can save up to 7,000 gallons of water per year!

For the lawn and garden:

- ✓ Plant native and drought-tolerant plants.
- ✓ Add mulch to your garden to prevent evaporation and help plants retain their moisture.
- ✓ Maintain your sprinkler system, run sprinklers in the morning for less evaporation, and adjust schedules depending on the time of year.

We can all use reminders on how to use water more efficiently at home. You'll not only save water, but also see the added benefit of lower water bills — now that's a win-win situation for us all.



Fix water leaks:

- **A leaky faucet that drips at the** rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year.
- **Ten percent of U.S. homes have** leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.
- Fixing easily corrected leaks can save homeowners more than 10% on their water bills.

Source: epa.gov

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

THERMOSTAT

Set it as high as is comfortable. Every degree of extra cooling increases energy usage 6-8%.

WHEN YOU'RE AWAY Raise your thermostat if leaving for more than four hours.

WATCH THE WINDOWS

Keep window coverings closed during the day to block the sun's heat.

APPLIANCES

Hold off on running the washing machine or dishwasher until early morning or the evening.

SWITCH IT OFF

Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you're done cooking or bathing.

On average, you should change your air filter every 1 to 3 months. A dirty air filter will make your HVAC system work harder and longer than it needs to.

LENNOX Unmatched Efficiency, **Precision And Comfort**

The Lennox SL28XCV is the top of top-tier. With an efficiency rating of up to 28 SEER, no other air conditioner comes close to this level of efficiency while delivering consistently perfect air. It's also been designated as one of the Most Efficient ENERGY STAR[®] certified products in 2022.

The SL28XCV is part of the Ultimate Comfort System[™], which combines the best of everything Lennox has to offer to create an unprecedented





The higher the MERV rating, the more effective an air filter will be at removing particles from indoor air.

How do I know I'm buying the right type of air filter for my HVAC system?

When shopping for an air filter, the dimensions are a very important factor but also consider the MERV rating. MERV stands for Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value and is used to identify filtering efficiency. The higher the rating number, the more efficient the filter is in trapping more and smaller particles.

How often you change your air filter is a big efficiency factor, too. Interestingly, filters become more efficient at collecting particles as they start to load up with dust and lint - these particles actually increase the filter's ability to hold onto smaller particles. However, the more it loads up, the harder your HVAC system has to work, causing stress on the blower motor and compressor. This strain can shorten the lifespan of your system.

That's where we come in. We can determine the right air filter for your HVAC system and recommend how often it should be changed.

The SL28XCV air conditioner is engineered to be beyond quiet.

whole-home comfort system. It stays finely tuned to your home to deliver consistently clean, perfect air. Consider a cooling system upgrade today.



Weather Balloons

The weather balloon has been an essential tool for forecasters for nearly 90 years. NOAA's National Weather Service has launched these balloons since the 1930s to collect data that's critical for forecasting day-to-day weather and storms.

Fitted with special data transmitters called radiosondes, weather balloons are launched twice a day at 92 sites across the United States, including 13 in Alaska. Alaska launches generate data that are especially important to support forecasts for the Lower 48 states.

As a balloon rises, the radiosonde gathers data at various levels in the atmosphere. This data helps forecasters understand how much moisture is in the air, temperatures, and wind speeds.

Weather balloons are made from strong latex and filled with hydrogen. As they take flight and expand, they won't pop until reaching about 20 miles.

Once the balloon pops, a parachute helps the radiosonde fall gently back to Earth. The collected data is transmitted every one to two seconds, including numbers that are critical to generating weather forecasting maps.



Weather balloons are launched around the world at the same time every day