

# **Air-Specialty<sup>®</sup>.COM** **2021 SPRING NEWSLETTER**

## **VIRUSES IN YOUR HOME'S AIR: How They Circulate and Why IAQ Solutions Minimize Risk**

When viruses spread, it's easy to feel like you have no control over the germs in your environment. Focusing on your home's indoor air quality (IAQ), however, will go a long way toward minimizing your risk of contracting a virus.

### **Understanding How Viruses Spread**

First, it helps to understand how viruses spread. When a person coughs, sneezes, exhales, or even speaks, they often release potentially infectious respiratory droplets into the air. Other people may inhale, touch, or otherwise come into contact with these droplets and become infected. Unfortunately, all it takes is a few infected droplets to spread many illnesses.

### **Taking the Necessary Precautions**

You can lower your risk of catching viruses in general by being mindful of your surroundings and activities, routinely practicing good hygiene, and systematically sanitizing the air in your home. First, look for ways to purify the air and be sure to properly ventilate your home. Portable air purifiers, strategically placed in the basement, bathroom, bedroom, or other problem areas can help. However, whole-house models are much more effective and require much less upkeep on your part. A whole-home ventilation system draws stale air out while ushering fresh air in.

After that, it's time to take control of your home's relative humidity (RH) level. The ideal RH for most homeowners lies somewhere between 40 and 50 percent. With the right systems in place, the air you breathe is far less likely to harbor microorganisms that cause infection, as well as allergens and other particulates that irritate the respiratory tract.

### **Speak with an IAQ Expert**

To learn about how indoor air quality products and other kinds of advanced AC equipment can help protect your health, contact one of our qualified service technicians today.

Our HVAC professionals can offer helpful insight as to the nature and extent of potential IAQ issues along with useful tips and advice on how to correct or prevent them.



# WHY IT'S WORTH REPLACING YOUR HVAC SYSTEM

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Is the thought of replacing your heating and cooling system causing you anxiety? Considering the fact that this important equipment is responsible for nearly half of your home's energy use, energy-efficiency is paramount.

## LOWER ENERGY BILLS

With so much riding on the quality of your HVAC equipment, including the size of your monthly energy bills, it's often worth replacing an old or ailing system before it breaks down completely. A new system will pay for itself over time due to the energy savings alone.

## IMPROVED HOUSEHOLD ENERGY-EFFICIENCY

Newer heating and cooling systems are generally much more efficient than their older cousins, which quickly translates to less energy use and smaller energy bills for customers. If you upgrade to a new thermostat, it's also much easier to tailor the temperature to your preferences. Some HVAC systems can even create various zones in your home for maximum comfort.

## UPGRADED REFRIGERANT

If you have an older system, it may use a type of coolant called R-22, which is no longer legal to manufacture due to international environmental regulations. This means this coolant will be hard to find, if not impossible to find, within the next few years. Newer systems use a type of coolant known as R-410a, which is much more efficient at absorbing and releasing heat. It's also better for the environment.

## MODERN AIR FILTRATION

Fresher, cleaner air is one of the biggest advantages of a new HVAC system. If you've been living with an older system for a while, you may not have even noticed how stuffy or drafty your home has become. A new unit arrives complete with a new filtration system that could make an immediate difference in the quality of your indoor air. For people with allergies, asthma, and other chronic health conditions, this is particularly important, and the change can be exhilarating.

To learn more about recent advances in HVAC equipment and how you could benefit from a new system, contact our office for information and advice.



# WHAT INCREASED USAGE MEANS FOR YOUR HVAC SYSTEM



Lots of our customers are spending more time at home these days. If this is true for you, your HVAC system has been working harder than usual to keep your space comfortable. Increased usage translates to greater wear and tear of your HVAC components and a higher chance of a breakdown.

Your HVAC system is an intricate symphony of parts working in harmony to keep your home livable. If one of those parts should prematurely wear out — belt, compressor, motor, and so on — the entire system will struggle to keep up. Efficiency will suffer, and you'll no longer be getting the benefits you paid for. What's worse is that, under such strain, your HVAC equipment could fail completely, resulting in

the need for costly repairs or even replacement.

A common sign of an impending breakdown is reduced heating or cooling capacity. Even if you don't notice this problem, it's a good idea to adopt a regular maintenance routine. By scheduling an appointment with your maintenance technician, you can stop problems before they start. Our techs can advise you if it's time to replace worn-out parts, so you don't incur surprise expenses down the road.

**Get ahead of the curve when it comes to increased system usage. Call us to schedule a tune-up of your HVAC system. A small preventive measure today can translate to big savings in the future.**



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Air Specialty would like to recognize 5 very special employees. Combined, these five individuals have given Air Specialty over 100 years of service! Thank you to each one of you for all your hard work and especially for providing the best for our customers over the years.

### PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT:

Gary Garrett, Helen Payne,  
Gary Grimes,  
Genny Hagler,  
Mike McCardle



# Strawberries Chantilly

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 to 1/3 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 large basket of fresh strawberries, cleaned cored and quartered
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar (optional)

## PREPARATION

1. Place in a large bowl the strawberries and sprinkle with sugar. Stir and let it rest covered in the refrigerator until ready to eat.



2. Meanwhile in a large bowl or the bowl of a KitchenAid with the whisk attachment, add the heavy cream, powdered sugar and vanilla. Whisk until soft peaks form.

3. In a large glass place couple of tablespoons of Chantilly, a layer of strawberries, a layer of Chantilly.

*Recipe courtesy of Foodista:*

<https://www.foodista.com/recipe/L3YWKQ7/strawberries-chantilly>

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PRESIDENT'S AWARD RECIPIENT?

It's a great question, and it starts with our commitment to quality workmanship and service excellence. They have been our core business philosophies since we started in 1993. Every day, when our customers call, they validate what we're delivering. The same is true when they refer friends and family. This has made Air Specialty the area's first choice in air conditioning.

The Carrier President's Award recognizes Carrier dealers who exemplify leadership and management, customer satisfaction, expertise, business growth and operational excellence. It serves as an outside validation that we're doing our job correctly.

It's Carrier's highest honor for its dealers – those who have excelled in customer relations. President's Award recipients are businesses that far exceed high expectations, not only as a Carrier

dealer, but also as Carrier Factory

Authorized Dealers — who are held to an even more exacting set of standards — an example of true excellence.

It's all about putting you first. It's your satisfaction – not just a sale – that

counts. That's why we strive to provide personal follow-up and quick, knowledgeable solutions

to your home comfort problems. We also keep ahead of the industry with specialized training. All of it makes a big difference when you have to make decisions about your home comfort.



# 5 Things Can Happen if You Try to *DIY*

**We get it:** HVAC maintenance is an extra expense. While there are a few do-it-yourself HVAC tasks you can perform without trouble like changing your air filter, not entrusting your unit with a professional will cost you more in the long run. That's because the risk of injury to the homeowner and damage to the HVAC system is much greater when you try to repair it on your own.

## 5 Risks of DIY HVAC Repair



1) Do-it-yourself HVAC repair can permanently damage your heating and cooling system. Replacing your HVAC system will break your bank a lot more than calling a certified service technician for a repair.



2) Fixing your HVAC system yourself can void your warranty. Thanks to your manufacturer's warranty, you can potentially fix heating and cooling issues for free by calling a professional. If you open the unit and try to complete the HVAC repair yourself, you'll lose that possibility and have to pay out of pocket.



3) The intricacies of an HVAC system are technically complicated and can lead to injury or even death if you don't fully know what you're doing or how the system operates. There are warning labels on your system for a reason. Pay attention to them, and never ignore their cautionary advice.



4) Repairing a system could potentially result in fire. Improper wiring can lead to an electrical fire at any time. That's why it's important to have an experienced and certified professional examine and repair your heating and air system.



5) Do-it-yourself HVAC repair could also make you sick. Carbon monoxide and Freon are harmful if inhaled. Make sure your home has a working carbon monoxide alarm to prevent a fatal mistake.

## Know Who to Trust

**It's important to know who to call for an HVAC repair. Doing the work yourself is dangerous, and so is calling an unlicensed handyman or a fly-by-the-night contractor. Licensing offers proof that your contractor meets industry standards.**

**Call a licensed HVAC professional to avoid these possibly fatal risks and ensure you receive the best quality of work possible.**



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