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## Variable-Capacity Air Conditioners Save Energy

Two of the most important improvements to modern high-efficiency air conditioners are the two-stage compressor and multi-speed condenser fan.

During the hottest weather, you may need the full capacity of your air conditioner to keep your home comfortable. During this full-time operation, your air conditioner runs at its maximum efficiency. But during moderate weather your air conditioner will cycle on and off to keep from over-cooling your home. This stop-and-go operation is inherently inefficient, since a lot of energy is wasted during the start-up and shut-down part of each cycle.

Air-conditioning units with a two-stage compressor and a multi-speed outdoor condenser fan operate at lower capacity during moderate weather. This results in cycles that are longer and more efficient. It also allows your system to remove more humidity from the air. When the weather is truly hot, they step up to full-speed operation to assure your comfort.

Variable-capacity air conditioners are all more efficient than older units, but they work in different ways:

- Some two-stage systems have two small compressors side-by-side. The first compressor operates alone during moderate weather. The second compressor kicks in only when needed during hot weather.
- The two-piston compressors run in one-piston mode during moderate weather and two-piston mode during hot weather.
- The multi-speed compressors actually turn at two different speeds to match the cooling load.

You can't avoid the heat of summer, but with a variable-capacity air conditioner you can reduce the cost of cooling your home.

### TIP OF THE MONTH

#### Bid Grease Stains Adieu

In the 1500s in his play "Macbeth," William Shakespeare wrote, "Out, damn spot, out I say." Perhaps he was lamenting about a nasty grease stain he couldn't wash out. Perhaps you've experienced the same problem, such as a serious greasy stain on a wall, one covered in fabric perhaps, or an unwashable type of expensive wallpaper. This is not a tragedy of epic proportions, and can be solved simply with a conventional electric clothes iron and a brown paper bag from the supermarket. To bid your greasy intruder fond adieu, just place the entire paper bag over the stain, and press down with a medium hot iron. No steam please. After a minute or two, the paper will absorb the heated and liquefied grease. Repeat if needed.

#### APRIL RAFFLE

From now until the end of April, all of our clients will be entered to win a

**\$100 Home Depot gift card.**

When they call to schedule their inspection, have them mention your name and if they win, YOU will receive a

**\$50 gift card to Chili's.**

#### MARCH'S WINNERS

John Robinson of Torrington  
Bill Downes of Gooseboro Realty

ASK  
DAVE



Dave Muirhead—President  
Building Inspections, Inc.

**Q.** How do I prepare my air conditioner for Summer?

**A.** Spring is a good time for maintaining your air conditioner. If you keep the coils of your air conditioner clean, it will improve your comfort and reduce your electricity costs this summer.

Start by inspecting the outdoor condensing unit. The large outdoor coil – it looks like a car radiator – is where heat is dissipated from your home.

The fan in the condensing unit has to move a whole lot of air through the coil, so make sure that there are no airflow restrictions around the condensing unit. Cut nearby grass, shrubs, and tree branches so they are at least 3 feet away at the sides and 5 feet away overhead.

Most condenser coils are loaded with pollen and dust even when you can't see it. The longest a condenser should go without cleaning is 2 years, depending on how much it operates during the summer. If your cooling season is 4 months or more, annual cleaning is an excellent idea. Turn off the power to the unit, and remove any visible grass and lint from the fins and/or louvers with an old hairbrush or whisk broom. Then put on a pair of rubber gloves and spray biodegradable outdoor coil cleaner into the coil. Wait five or ten minutes and flush the coil with a gentle water spray.

Your indoor coil might also need cleaning, even though you can't easily see it. If your air conditioner's filter or blower are dirty, then your indoor coil is probably dirty, too. Cleaning the indoor coil is usually a job for professionals, unless you have easy access, as with a central heat pump. To help keep your indoor coil clean, make sure your filter fits well, is easy to change, and that you change it regularly. Have your air conditioning contractor make improvements to the filter, if needed, so it is easy to get to. Change the filter often to help keep your indoor air conditioner coil clean and reduce energy consumption.

JOKE OF THE MONTH



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

**April 3, 1860** - In the American West, the Pony Express service began as the first rider departed St. Joseph, Missouri. For \$5 an ounce, letters were delivered 2,000 miles to California within ten days. The famed Pony Express riders each rode from 75 to 100 miles before handing off to the next rider. There were a total of 190 way stations located about 15 miles apart. The service lasted less than two years until the completion of the overland telegraph.

**April 6, 1896** - After a break of 1500 years, the first Olympics of the modern era was held in Athens, Greece.

**April 12, 1981** - The first space shuttle flight occurred with the launching of *Columbia* with astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen aboard. *Columbia* spent 54 hours in space, making 36 orbits, then landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

**April 19, 1775** - At dawn in Massachusetts, about 70 armed militiamen stood face to face on Lexington Green with a British advance guard unit. An unordered 'shot heard around the world' began the American Revolution. A volley of British rifle fire followed by a charge with bayonets left eight Americans dead and ten wounded.

**April 15, 1817** - The first American school for the deaf was founded by Thomas H. Gallaudet and Laurent Clerc in Hartford, Connecticut.

**April 30, 1789** - George Washington became the first U.S. President as he was administered the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall at the corner of Wall and Broad Streets in New York.

FROM TAMARIA'S KITCHEN . . .

SUDOKU

HOT ARTICHOKE AND SPINACH DIP

- 1 clove Garlic, finely minced
- 1/4 C. Romano Cheese
- 1/4 C. Parmesan Cheese
- 1/4 C. Mayonnaise
- 1/2 C. Spinach, Frozen, chopped
- 1 - 14 oz. can Artichoke Hearts, Drained & chopped
- 1 - 8 oz. pkg Cream Cheese
- 1/2 tsp. Basil dry (1 T. Fresh Basil)
- 1/4 C. Mozzarella Cheese, Grated
- 1/4 tsp. Garlic Powder
- Salt & Pepper to taste
- 1/2 tsp. Tabasco Sauce
- 1/2 C. Sharp Cheddar Cheese
- 3 T. finely minced onions

Allow cream cheese to come to room temperature. Cream together mayonnaise, parmesan, romano, cheddar, mozzarella, garlic, Tabasco, basil and garlic powder. Mix well. Add the onions, artichoke hearts & spinach and mix until blended (make sure the spinach is well drained). Spray pie pan with Pam, pour in dip, and top with Mozzarella Cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes or until top is browned. Serve with Tostados.

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