



News & Helpful Hints for the Informed Homeowner

Summer 2012

We hope that you're enjoying the beautiful weather we've been having this month. At times the heat has been intense!

Given the recent drought, water damage isn't the first thing on our minds, but sometimes the rain can catch us off guard - like last fall after Hurricane Lee. Most of Lancaster County was overwhelmed with immense amounts of flooding which produced wet basements and damaged HVAC equipment. Read on for some tips on what to do if we encounter basement flooding again.

Now is a good time to also think about cleaning out your air ducts. We've compiled some information on this valuable service and what it can offer for your home.

Don't forget to stop by our office and pick up Barnstormer's tickets! There are still plenty of games in September.

Thank you for your continued support! We look forward to continuing to serve your heating and cooling needs.

Ken and Shane Weaver

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PP&L Rebates Are Available!

Rebates for newly installed air conditioning units and heat pumps are still available through PP&L. You can see a complete list of the covered units and their rebate amounts on their [ePower website](#). The site also allows you to download the necessary forms for the rebates.

Conservation Tips for Warm Weather

Annual tune-ups are essential to keep your heating and cooling equipment running reliably and efficiently. In addition to a tune-up, you can also use these tips to keep your home comfort equipment running efficiently during spring and summer:

- Keep the coils of your air conditioner free of dust and dirt.
- Change or clean your AC filter monthly during the cooling season.
- If installing a new AC unit, make sure it is Energy Star approved.
- Cooking on an outdoor grill keeps the cooking heat outside your home, thus eliminating the extra cooling needed to compensate for the additional heat.
- Install reflective window coatings to reflect heat away from your home.
- During the day, block heat from the sun by closing windows, doors and curtains.

Keep Floodwaters at Bay

Many of us felt the power of Hurricane Lee last August as local creeks and rivers surged above their banks and into our basements. Though it was an extreme event (one that we sincerely hope doesn't repeat itself) we do believe in preparing ourselves for the worst nature can offer - which means preparing our basement for flooding.

- When installing new HVAC equipment, have it installed on a platform to keep it several inches off the floor and out of harm's way. In cases of extreme flooding, it may be necessary to construct a flood wall around the unit.
- If your basement does flood, turn off all electrical switches and gas valves including all switches (i.e. disconnects and breakers) to the heating and cooling equipment. If your furnace or water heater was submerged, shut off gas valves to prevent exposure to leaking gas. If you have an oil tank, turn off the valve at the tank to help reduce the risk of an oil leak.
- If the equipment was submerged, open it up to allow it to begin to dry out.
- Do not turn on flooded equipment until you have it inspected and serviced by a qualified technician. If there is debris present, call us for a system tune-up. A proper tune-up will include a complete inspection, cleaning and lubrication of the system.
- Change all air and furnace filters to prevent fungus, insect or contaminant build up. If your heating equipment has been exposed to flood waters, it is very important you have your heating equipment checked for proper mechanical and safety operation, tuned-up and cleaned thoroughly.

Get Your Ducts in a Row

The EPA recommends cleaning out your air ducts on an as-needed basis. If you notice mold, vermin or an excess of dirt and dust built up in the ducts, it's important to call a professional duct cleaner. These conditions can sometimes imply an underlying problem - be sure to investigate where these issues may be starting and correct them before cleaning out the ducts. If you would like to clean out the ducts in your home, we recommend calling DUCTZ. You can reach them at 717-735-7020 or visit their [website](#).