

Preparing Your Home for the Hot Summer Weather!

Spring is coming up fast! Before you know it the warmer weather will be here! After a very cold and very snowy winter, your home is going to need a little preparation to get ready for the heat! Now is the time to go through your home and see what needs maintenance before the warm weather arrives!

Sterling suggests scheduling a comprehensive seasonal inspection on your air conditioning system. This will help your AC system run at its peak performance and help you to ensure uninterrupted comfort this summer, saving you time, money, and frustration!

During these hard economic times, spending money on maintenance may not seem viable, and while getting regular maintenance will not guarantee your unit with work perfectly, regular inspections will help to reveal small problems, which if left unattended could lead to major, far more expensive problems. Also

poorly maintained air conditioning systems can consume up to 50% more energy, costing you more money on your utility bills.

Along with regular professional maintenance, there are some steps you as the homeowner can do to keep your AC system running at its peak performance.

The first thing you should do before turning your system to cool this summer is to go outside and make sure your condensing unit is not covered. The unit works by drawing in air to cool your home.

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Cut Utility Bills, While Staying Comfortable!

One of the easiest ways to cut costs while keeping your home comfortable is to invest in a programmable thermostat. Having a programmable thermostat allows you to program a schedule for your cooling system. Which means you could set the temperature at one setting while your home and another while your away during the day. Saving you energy and money while the system is not running. Read more on page 2 see [“Programmable Thermostats”](#)

Energy Audits

How do you know where your house is costing you money? Having an energy audit conducted would allow you to see where you could improve the energy efficiency of your home. By calling Sterling and signing up for an energy audit you will automatically be qualified for \$1,000 of air sealing. Thanks you existing government programs, Sterling is able to offer \$1,000 of air sealing at no cost to the homeowner, even if you do not decide to upgrade your heating or cooling system.

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Programmable Thermostats

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What is the best program for my thermostat, so that I save money and energy every day? There are a lot of people out there who will pawn off their opinions as fact, so it may be hard to know which sources to believe. While there may be many different programming options, Sterling has come up with a few suggestions. We have compiled these from our years of experience in field.

Sterling suggests setting the temperature back about 2-4 degrees with a max of 6-8 degrees, while not home. This will save you money and energy while you're not home, but also allows the system the easiest route to keeping your whole house comfortable.

While many tests have proved that your system uses the same amount of energy to re-cool a space as it saved while not running. You need to keep in mind that if you raise your home, say from 74 to 80 that it may take your home 2-4 hours to reach the warmer temperature, meaning it will also take your home 2-4 hours to cool

PROBLEMS WITH YOUR AIR CONDITIONING?

Here are a few things you can check before having to call for Service:

- Is the thermostat switch set to proper position?
- Is the temperature set below the actual room temperature?
- Is your furnace power switch turned on? The air-conditioner needs the furnace to circulate the air.
- Is the air-conditioning disconnect or breaker turned on? If you know how to check the fuses, see if there are any blown. If you do not know how to check the fuses, call a technician.
- Is the furnace filter clean?
- Are the air registers open?
- Is there ice on the pipes at the evaporator coil (the indoor portion of the air-conditioner)? If there is, turn off the unit and call a technician.
WARNING: DO NOT SET THE THERMOSTAT BELOW 68 DEGREES. THIS CAN CAUSE A MULTITUDE OF PROBLEMS WITH YOUR AIR-CONDITIONER, INCLUDING FREEZING UP.
- Is the outside condensing unit running?
- Air-conditioning Systems are designed to give you a 15° degree temperature differential. When it is 100° degrees outside, that would mean it would be 85° in your house.

back off to your desired temperature. This time frame all depends on how efficient your home is. If well insulated the cooling off process is much longer, keeping your system from running needlessly. You may also want to look into receiving an energy audit on your home. This would allow you to know exactly what areas of your house might be drafty or might need more insulation. See "Energy Audits" for more information!

Interested in a programmable thermostat? See our current thermostat special below! Call today for more information.



**HONEYWELL
PRO 4000**

**Programmable
Thermostat**

**ONLY
\$110.00**

Professional Installed

**Call today
for more
information!**

Seasonal Inspection Agreements

Sterling offers one time Seasonal Inspections along with Annual Seasonal Inspection Agreements. With a one-time inspection, we will come out once and inspect the cooling system only. The cost will be the same as a standard service call. While with our Annual Seasonal Inspection Agreement, you will receive two visits to your home, one in the spring to inspect your cooling system and one in the fall to inspect your heating system. Both visits would be covered under a onetime cost. Along with saving over \$50 by getting an agreement, customers who have a Seasonal Inspection Agreement with us enjoy a discount on any service...

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Spring Seasonal Inspection

One Zone System
ONLY \$125.00
plus tax and cost of filter

Annual Inspection Agreement

One Zone System
ONLY \$159.50
plus tax

HEPA Air Cleaners

Many people are excited about spring and the warmer weather, but for a lot of us spring has an ominous side, which is Allergy Season. Keeping your home a comfortable sanctuary from the dust and pollen and allergens can be a tough battle. Many conventional dusting methods used can in fact stir up more dust into the air your breathing then is actually removed.



One effective long term solution would be to install a Honeywell HEPA air cleaner in your home. This system is a great way to remove the impurities from your air efficiently to leave only the pure air that will have you breathing deeply and effortlessly. This Honeywell system has a HEPA filter which is certified to remove most of the air's impurities, which can lead to breathing difficulties, such as pollen, dust, and pet dander. The system uses a fan to pull air into the system and through the filter to remove impurities. The filter itself will need to be changed or cleaned regularly in order to keep the system running optimally.

After using this system, you will be pleasantly surprised to see less dust in the air and on surfaces around your home. Which is always a plus when fighting allergies and asthma. This will let you relax and breathe easier while in your home!

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The easier it is for the unit to draw in the air the better efficiency you will be rewarded with. Along with removing any covers, now is the time to clean leaves and any debris away from the unit, along with trimming back bushes and trees, it is suggested to give your unit 1-2 feet of open space.

You should also be changing the filter in the furnace regularly; we suggest checking and/or changing the filter every 30 days. Please keep in mind that

some filters (such as pleated or 3M filters) might need to be changed more often than others. Dirty filters restrict air flow, reducing efficiency and if left unattended can cause the evaporator to ice up. Disposable fiberglass filters should be replaced, while electrostatic or electronic filters need to be washed regularly. Better to check the filter now, before issues could arise.

For more information on Sterling's Inspections and Agreements, please check out "Seasonal Inspection Agreements" page 2 for more information, or you can also check out the information on our website www.SterlingHeating.com

Seasonal Inspection Agreements

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they might need during their contract.

Sterling recommends having your cooling inspection scheduled in the spring before the heat hits, but after the temperature has been around 70o for 2-3 consecutive days. This will ensure we can perform all tests needed and get proper readings.

Listed to the right in the yellow box, you will see a more detailed list of some of the items our service technicians will be checking while performing a Seasonal Inspection on your cooling system.

If you have any questions about Sterling's Spring Seasonal Inspections or Annual Inspection Agreements please don't hesitate to give our office a call and speak to one of our friendly service stall members, who will be more than happy to answer any of your questions.

Seasonal Inspection of Cooling System to Include:

- Check Operation of System
- Check Thermostat
- Change/Clean Filter(s)
- Check Electrical Connections
- Check Safety Controls
- Check Pressures
- Check Temperatures
- Oil condenser fan motor, if applicable
- Check Contactor
- Check Outdoor coil
- Check/Run defrost Cycle
- Check and clear drains
- Check fan blade
- Check refrigerant charge



ACCREDITED CONTRACTOR



Energy Audits

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Along with the free air sealing you will also receive a comprehensive report as to where your house is tight and where it maybe be leaking air. Many cases of air leaks are an easy fix, with a little insulation or foam you can save money every month of your heating and cooling bills.

Currently there are government programs which will help you upgrade old out of date heating and cooling equipment with new high efficiency equipment. The program for 2010 will pay HALF of your installation costs if you qualify, up to \$10,000! Plus there are financing options, which might qualify you for 0% financing over 10

years. Meaning your monthly loan payment will be smaller than the amount you will save on your utility bills!

If you are interested in receiving an energy audit or would like more information on the government financing programs, please call our office today and one of our skilled comfort consultants will be able to answer all your questions.

Financing over the next 10 years! Which means the money you'll be saving on your utility bills will be greater then your monthly loan payment!

If you are interested in receiving an energy audit, please call our office today and one of our skilled comfort consultants will be able to answer all your questions.

Seasonal Inspection Agreement 2010

One Zone System is ONLY \$159.50 plus tax

Call today for your Spring Appointment!