



Make Pittsburgh Even Cooler in April:

Get smart about heat in your home; get your furnace professionally serviced

Neglect is one of the top reasons that heating and cooling systems fail. You can enhance the efficiency and lifespan of your system, save money, and reduce your impact on global warming by getting your furnace professionally serviced.

- **Save Energy and Money**

According to Energy Star, “The average home spends about \$1,900 annually on energy bills. Heating and cooling accounts for as much as half of a home’s energy use.” With such a significant amount of money going into heating and cooling, we should all make sure that our heating and cooling units are operating as efficiently as possible. Systems that are not properly maintained can operate less than 50 percent as well as they should, which costs you much more than is necessary.

- **What Happens During a Checkup?**

Energy Star recommends that when you get your furnace professionally serviced, the contractor should complete the following:

- **Check thermostat settings** to make sure the heating system turns on and off at the programmed temperatures.
- **Tighten all electrical connections and measure voltage and current on motors.** Faulty connections can cause unsafe operation and reduce the life of major components.
- **Lubricate all moving parts.** Parts that lack lubrication increase the amount of electricity used. It can also cause equipment to wear out more quickly.
- **Check and inspect the condensate drain in your furnace and/or heat pump (when in cooling mode).** If plugged, the drain can cause water damage in the house, affect indoor humidity levels, and breed bacteria and mold.
- **Check system controls to ensure proper and safe operation.** Check the starting cycle of the equipment to assure the system starts, operates, and shuts off properly.
- **Inspect, clean, or change air filter in your furnace and/or heat pump.** Your contractor can show you how to do this yourself. Your air filter should be replaced or cleaned about once a month.
- **Check all gas (or oil) connections, gas pressure, burner combustion, and heat exchanger.** Improperly operating gas (or oil) connections are a fire hazard and can contribute to health problems. A dirty burner or cracked heat exchanger causes improper burner operation. Either can cause the equipment to operate less safely and efficiently.

- **Track Your Progress:**

Go to our website (www.theblackandgoldcitygoesgreen.com) and fill in the tracking form so we can measure how much we’re all cutting our heat-trapping gases. No computer? No problem. Call us at 412-258-6680 or fill in one of the postcards available throughout the city.