

# Homeowner News

News & Information For The Customers Of Climate Control

Spring, 2010

## Inside...

Simple  
Bruschetta  
Appetizers

Save with  
Solar Powered  
Outdoor  
Lighting

3 Way Savings  
on New HVAC  
Equipment

\$100 & \$50  
Giveaway

The  
CORNER

## The Troubling Ten: The Most Frequently Encountered Spring A/C Problems & How You Can Prevent Them

In a tough economy the last thing you need is a surprise air conditioning repair. While all mechanical systems require repairs from time to time, many are preventable. In no particular order, here are the ten most common problems we encounter every Spring and what you can do to avoid them.

### 1. Tripped Breaker

One of the most common causes of no-cool calls is a tripped breaker. Reset it before calling us. Hopefully, it won't repeat. If it does, call us. Something is causing the breaker to trip. Often, it's something simple, like a bad breaker, loose wire, or a bad capacitor. However, if not addressed, some simple problems could lead to far more expensive repairs.

### 2. Dirty Filter

If you have a 1" disposable filter, it should be replaced monthly. It's out of sight and out of mind, so it's easy to forget to change it. Yet, every year we go on service calls where the air conditioner isn't cooling and the cause is restricted air flow from an extremely dirty filter. Dirty filters reduce indoor air quality, make the home less comfortable, and can result in frozen indoor coils, eventually leading to serious repairs.

### 3. Refrigerant Leaks

An air conditioning system is a sealed system. It should never leak refrigerant. When it does, bad things happen. Your air conditioner efficiency falls and electricity use rises. Your air conditioner may not cool. The coil may freeze. The compressor could become damaged. Plus, refrigerants are greenhouse gases. We use a variety of tools to track down refrigerant leaks. Often the problem is as simple as a bad Schrader valve or a weakened connection between a fitting and refrigerant tubing.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Referral Rewards - \$20 Off

Give this coupon to a friend to use on any heating, air conditioning, geothermal, ice melt or dust control service\* and we will send YOU a \$20 Gift Certificate to Mavericks.

Send Referral Reward to: \_\_\_\_\_

(your name)

**Climate Control**

**605-225-9822**

\*Excludes trip and diagnostic charges. Not valid with other offers. Expires

# Simple Bruschetta Appetizers

Small, open-faced sandwiches, Bruschetta make perfect appetizers. They are delicious and quick and easy to make. (this recipe makes about 24 Bruschetta)

## Ingredients

- Long loaf crusty bread
- 3 medium ripe roma tomatoes
- 3 large fresh mozzarella balls
- 24 fresh basil leaves
- Coarse salt
- Extra virgin olive oil

## Procedure

1. Cut Bread into 1/2" (4cm) slices on the diagonal
2. Lightly toast bread in the oven on both sides
3. Cut tomatoes into 1/4 inch (0.75cm) slices and place one on each slice of bread.
4. Cut mozzarella balls into 1/4 inch (0.75cm) slices and place on top of tomato.
5. Chop basil into thin strips and sprinkle on top
6. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with salt.



## Optional

- re-toasting with toppings on will make the mozzarella melt
- rub roasted garlic cloves on the toasted bread slices



## Save Money with Solar Powered Outdoor Lighting

If you're interested in saving energy, installing solar-powered landscape lighting makes perfect sense. Outdoor solar lights are easy to install and virtually maintenance free. Best of all, they provide free electricity.

These specialized lighting systems use solar cells, which convert sunlight into electricity. The electricity is stored in batteries for use at night.

Outdoor solar lighting systems will work in most areas of the United States. However, it is important to consider geographic and site specific variables when choosing a product. A solar lighting system will work well only as long as the solar cells receive the manufacturer's recommended hours of sunlight.

Some solar lighting systems are self-contained units. You only need to place the lights in a sunny location. Others have the lights separate from a solar cell panel. Only the panel needs to be placed in a sunny location.

Before you buy an outdoor solar lighting system, check with the manufacturer to see if replacement bulbs or batteries are available. Some units do not provide replacement options.

Some source material obtained from The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

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## Homeowner News

The Homeowner News is a quarterly publication of Climate Control. It is provided to our customers free of charge. We welcome your suggestions and ideas. Contact us at:

**Climate Control Inc**  
12999 386th Ave Suite 2  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
605-225-9822  
[info@climatecontrolprofessionals.com](mailto:info@climatecontrolprofessionals.com)  
[climatecontrolprofessionals.com](http://climatecontrolprofessionals.com)

## The Troubling 10

(Continued from page 1)

### 4. Switch Turned Off

Some heating and air conditioning systems have a wall switch at the indoor unit for safety and convenience that can be confused with a light switch. If this is accidentally switched off or left off during mild weather, your air conditioner will not start. Always check the condition of this switch before calling us.

### 5. Thermostat Problems

Some thermostats must be switched between heating mode and cooling mode. If the switch is in the wrong position or breaks, your air conditioner won't start. Quality digital thermostats rarely fail. Some of the cheap ones available from the big boxes might. So what goes wrong? The switch might break, a voltage spike might cause a malfunction, and so on.

### 6. Clogged Drain Line

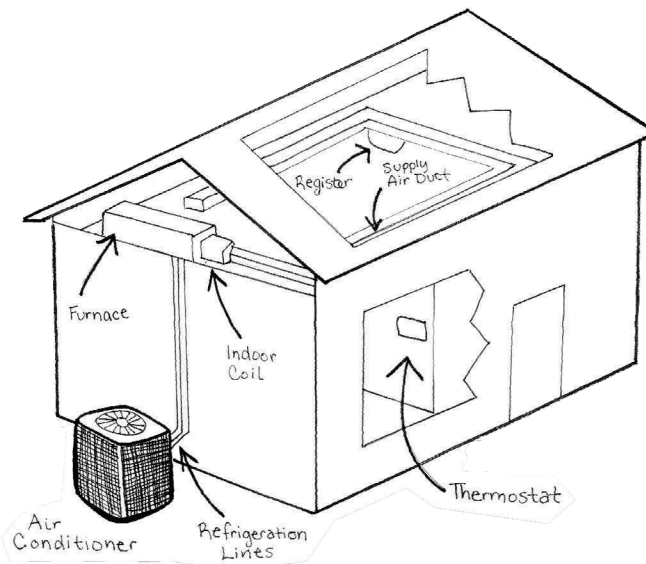
Air conditioners pull moisture out of humid air while lowering the temperature. The moisture is typically drained out of your home through your plumbing system. A drain pan should be present as a back up with a secondary condensate drain. Algae can grow in these lines, clogging them up. This can lead to water damage in your home. We clear the drain lines as part of our Spring air conditioning tune-up or you can have it done separately, as needed.

### 7. Contactor

A contactor is an electromechanical switch in your air conditioner. Sometimes the silver coating on a contactor will wear off and the contactor will stick, causing the outside unit to run continuously, which is expensive. Sometimes ants are attracted to the electricity and get squashed between the contactors, blocking them from closing. When this happens, the outside unit won't run. Contactors can also fail electrically. We check these as part of a Spring tune-up, clean the surface of the contactors if needed, and recommend replacement if failure appears imminent.

### 8. Dirty Evaporator Coil

The evaporator coil is located inside your home. Liquid refrigerant is sprayed into this coil to evaporate and draw heat from the air being blown across the coil. Periodically the coil needs to be cleaned or dust and particle build up will restrict the coil's heat transfer capabilities and reduce system air flow down the duct system. Dirty



coils increase operating cost while simultaneously reducing home comfort.

### 9. Dirty Condenser Coil

The condenser coil is located outside your home. The compressor pulls hot refrigerant gas from the evaporator and pumps it through the outdoor coil where it condenses into a liquid as the condensing unit fan pulls air across the coil. A dirty or restricted coil is inefficient, increasing electricity usage and reducing system cooling capacity. We wash, clean, and if needed, comb the condenser coil as part of the Spring tune-up.

### 10. Duct Leaks

Your heating and air conditioning system adds and removes heat to the duct system. The duct system is tasked with delivering it to the occupied areas of your home. If the ducts that supply conditioned air to the living space leak and are located outside of the living space, you're essentially paying to heat or cool the outdoors. If the ducts that return conditioned air from the living space leak, you pull in unconditioned, unfiltered air. Duct leakage is one of the leading causes of inefficient air conditioning operation and home comfort problems. Leaks range from duct penetration to split seams to completely disconnected ducts. Repairing individual leaks is not expensive. It's the leaks that are expensive.

## SAVE 3 WAYS on New HVAC Equipment

Don't wait until your system breaks down, replace it now and you'll save 3 ways.

1. Limited time 10% discount (up to \$300) off installed price
2. 30% (up to \$1,500) in tax credits on qualifying equipment
3. Improved efficiency of system lowers your utility bills

Not valid with other offers. Expires 5/31/10.

**605-225-9822**  
**Climate Control**

# Win a \$100 Gift Card!

Complete and return for a chance to win a \$100 gift card. If you correctly answer the three questions below, we'll enter you in a drawing for a \$100 gift card. Second prize will be a \$50 gift card. All entries must be received by 3/31/2010. Mail to: **Climate Control 12999 386th Ave Suite 2, Aberdeen, SD 57401**

1. Dirty \_\_\_\_\_ reduce indoor air quality, make the home less comfortable, and can result in frozen indoor coils, eventually leading to serious repairs.
2. An air conditioning system should \_\_\_\_\_ refrigerant.
3. The evaporator coil is located \_\_\_\_\_ your home.
4. The condenser coil is located \_\_\_\_\_ your home.

Please contact me about:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dust Control for my road     | <input type="checkbox"/> Lowering my electric bill           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Premium Ice Melt products    | <input type="checkbox"/> Improving indoor air quality        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heat/Cool system maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Upgrading heating/cooling equipment |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Limit 1 entry per person. No purchase necessary. A purchase will not improve your chances of winning. Winner will be selected at random within 30 days of entry deadline. All decisions are final. All entrants agree to contest rules, which require winner to sign a prize and publicity release unless precluded by law. Must be 18 to enter. Failure to comply results in disqualification. Entries void if incomplete or illegible. No responsibility is assumed for lost, late, or illegible entries. Company employees and family members are ineligible. Odds depend on the number of entries received. Acceptance of the prize implies consent to use name and image in promotional material with the prize as compensation. All taxes are the responsibility of the winner.



## The Corner

Q: Why did a fellow rabbit say that the Easter Bunny was self-centered?  
A: Because he is eggo-centric.

Q: Where do Easter Bunnies go for new tails?  
A: A re-tail store.

Q: How do you make a rabbit stew?  
A: Make it wait for 3 hours!

Q: A man wanted an Easter pet for his daughter. He looked at a baby chick and a baby duck. They were both very cute, but he decided to buy the baby chick. Do you know why?  
A: The baby chick was a little cheeper!

Q: When rain falls, does it ever get up again?  
A: Yes, in dew time.

Q: What's worse than raining buckets?  
A: Hailing taxis.

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