



# Homeowner News

News & Information For The Customers Of Climate Control Summer, 2010



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French Toast**

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**10% Off  
Summer Sale**

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## How to Prepare and Respond to Severe Summer Storms

Bad weather.

There may be nothing more frightening than the helpless feeling when a severe storm approaches. Most of us hope and pray it will pass without serious damage.

Unless you've taken proper precautions, the impact of such a storm can be catastrophic. It's not just a matter of protecting your possessions; severe weather can be life-threatening, and should be taken very seriously.

In summertime, the biggest danger is usually from thunderstorms. A severe storm can spawn a tornado, but even if it doesn't, the damage caused by high winds, heavy rains, hail, and lightning can be devastating.

In our part of the country, severe storms are pretty common. Knowing what to do when they arrive is critical. The tips you'll find in this article will go a long way toward protecting your home, your family and your possessions. The only catch is you have to act on them!

### Lightning

Since we're focusing on thunderstorms, let's start with the most obvious danger—lightning. While you may feel protected inside your home, lightning can actually still cause big problems.

There are two things you should never use during a lightning storm. One is a wired phone. Cell phones are okay, but any phone that plugs into a wall could carry electricity from a lightning strike right into your body.

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## Croissant French Toast

### Vanilla Sauce:

1/2 cup sugar  
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour  
2 cups heavy whipping cream  
4 egg yolks  
1 tablespoon vanilla extract  
2 scoops vanilla ice cream

### Berry Sauce:

2 cups fresh raspberries or unsweetened raspberries (blueberries work well also)  
2 tablespoons sugar

### French Toast:

3 eggs  
4 croissants, cut in half  
2 tablespoons butter

In a large saucepan, combine the sugar and flour. Stir in cream until smooth. Reduce heat; cook and stir 2 minutes longer. Remove from the heat. Stir a small amount of hot filling into egg yolks; return all to pan, stirring constantly. Cook and stir another 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Gently stir in vanilla and ice cream until the ice cream is melted. Cool.

For berry sauce, combine raspberries or blueberries and sugar in a saucepan. Simmer, uncovered for 2-3 minutes. Remove from heat; set aside.

In a shallow dish, beat eggs. Dip both sides of croissant in egg mixture. On a griddle, brown croissants on both sides in butter. Serve with vanilla and berry sauce.



This is more like a scrumptious dessert than a main dish, this rich French toast is topped with a tangy raspberry sauce and a vanilla sauce that includes ice cream. Vanilla sauce can also be served with pancakes.



## Own a Swimming Pool? Read this...

Installing a backyard swimming pool can make those hot summers a lot more fun and relaxing, but could it get you into a lot of financial trouble too? The short answer is: yes.

If you're not properly insured, and someone gets hurt in your pool, you are inviting law suits. I know what you're thinking: my friends and family are the only ones who use

my pool... they're not going to sue me if anything happens. Guess again. It's not necessarily that people love to sue or even want to. They may have to. With the high costs of medical expenses today, a family that suffers a serious injury (or--god forbid--a death) probably can't afford not to sue. And if a person was injured at your pool in your backyard, guess who's technically at fault?

If you own a swimming pool or hot tub, you should carry very high liability insurance, i.e. in the range of a million dollars or more.

This can be tricky since many homeowner's insurance policies limit the maximum exposure of the insurer to \$100,000. Sometimes you can get this raised to \$300,000, but getting covered beyond that, from your homeowner's plan alone, will likely prove difficult.

This is why you want to look into an umbrella plan. This is a separate liability policy in addition to your homeowner's coverage. It generally picks up where your homeowner's insurance leaves off, and you can get coverage of several million dollars.

The cost for this additional coverage is usually minimal, in the neighborhood of \$500 per year. This may seem pricey, but considering the millions of dollars of coverage it affords you, it's worth the money, especially if you entertain and have a hot tub or pool.

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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:

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## Preparing and Responding When Summer Storms Roll In

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The other thing you should never do is take a bath or shower during a thunderstorm. Lightning can be carried through the pipes in your home.

Lightning can also cause all kinds of trouble for your appliances and other electronic devices.

It sounds like a lot of work, but one way to protect things like your refrigerator, washer, microwave, computer and television, is to simply unplug them.

That is unless you have a good surge suppressor on each one.

Even better is to add a second layer of protection using a “whole-house” surge suppressor installed by a licensed electrician. Coupled with individual protectors, there’s no better way to prevent damage from electrical spikes.

### Flooding

Another problem brought on by rain storms is obviously flooding. Flooding can damage possessions inside and outside your home.

A good early warning system can help limit the damage from flooding,

whether it’s brought on by rain or just a leaky pipe or fixture.

There are products you can purchase that won’t necessarily stop flooding, but let you know about it before it does major damage. You can also install equipment that will cut off the supply of water into your house if it senses a problem caused by a leak in your house.

You should also consider investing in, or maintaining your sewer backflow valve. Without it, you could have unsanitary water being pushed back into your home. That’s not a pleasant situation under any circumstances.

If you’re home has a sump pump, you want to make sure it’s properly maintained so it will function properly when needed. A licensed plumber can make sure it’s in peak condition.

### After the Storm

Once the storm passes there are still some safety and comfort issues to consider.

Hopefully you haven’t lost power to your home. If you did, it may be too late to buy a portable generator. If



you’re in an area with lots of storms, a permanent generator set can make all the difference in the world.

If you’re waiting for electricity to come back on, keep your appliances unplugged so the sudden surge doesn’t damage them. This is another instance where a protective surge suppressor will reduce the risk of damage and save you a lot of time and effort.

Check to be sure rising water, wind or lightning hasn’t damaged any of your utility services. Check for fire in and around your home.

You should also take a look at your central air conditioning system to make sure it’s in good working order. It can be damaged by flying debris, and at the very least may need to have some coil fins straightened out. Worst case is it might have been zapped by lightning.

Most system contain delicate electronics both inside the home and outside. If you notice any damage, or suspect the system has been zapped by lightning, it’s probably best to have a technician check it out before turning it back on.

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\*Maximum coupon value \$100

# Win a Visa Gift Card!

Complete and return for a chance to win a \$50 gift card. If you correctly answer the three questions below, we'll enter you in a drawing for a \$50 gift card. Second prize will be a \$25 gift card. All entries must be received by **7/31/10**. Mail to: **Climate Control 12999 386th Ave Suite 2 Aberdeen, SD 57401**

1. In summertime, the biggest danger is usually from \_\_\_\_\_.
2. There are two things you should never use during a lightning storm, wired \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A good way to prevent lightning damage to your appliances is to install a whole-house \_\_\_\_\_.
4. After a lightning storm, check for \_\_\_\_\_ in and around 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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

This summer, for the first time ever, the Soccer World Cup is being held on the African Continent. In honor of that...

Q: How do you stop a charging rhinoceros?  
A: Take away his credit card.

Q: What is a giraffe's favorite joke?  
A: A tall story.

Q: Which cat should you never play cards with?  
A: A cheetah.

Q: How do hippos commute?  
A: In a hippopotabus.

A gorilla walks into a restaurant and orders a soda. The waiter gives it to him, presents the check and says "that'll be \$25." The gorilla hands him the money and the waiter says "We don't get many gorillas round these parts." The gorilla replies "At these prices, you won't get many more, either!"

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