

Movers' & Shaker's Marketplace

Four spring cleaning tips to save money on energy

(NC)—After a long winter indoors, spring is a popular time for Canadians to refresh their space with a deep, thorough cleaning. As homeowners make their 'to do' list this spring, they should remember to include their indoor comfort systems. Taking care of your home's heating and cooling system will help create a comfortable environment while saving money for your family. This spring, the Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI) is offering tips for homeowners to refresh their indoor environments, while taking control of the maintenance and efficiency of their home's valuable HVAC system.

1. Get Rid of Dust

A dirty filter reduces air flow, forcing your HVAC system to work harder. By simply replacing the furnace filters on a regular basis, energy use can be reduced by up to 15 per cent. Eliminating dust build-up in the air circulation system (including vents) is also important, and don't forget to clean the exhaust fans in bathrooms and kitchens, which can have an effect on the efficiency of air flow throughout the home.

2. Commission a Home Energy Evaluation

Audit can seem like a scary concept, but when it comes to a home energy evaluation or "audit", the results can

be very beneficial. By engaging a certified professional, homeowners will learn where energy is being lost and can realize significant cost savings on home energy bills, often up to 30 per cent, while improving the resale value of the home. In many provinces, government rebates are offered for this important service.

3. Pay Attention to AC Noise Levels

For many homeowners, spring cleaning is the first time in the season their home's thermostat makes the switch from 'heat' to 'cool.' When first utilizing air conditioning this spring, there are some telltale signs that your system is in need of immediate maintenance or repair. Excessive levels of noise from the fans or compressors or vibration from the cabinet unit, are indications that you should call in the professionals. Identifying these issues early allows homeowners to mitigate their repair costs and save from a complete system failure.

4. Schedule your Bi-Annual Maintenance

Your home's HVAC system is a major investment, with replacement costs which can add up to \$10,000 and more. Protect your investment by scheduling maintenance on your system at least twice a year using a trained, certified professional. Look to local professionals featured in this newspaper.

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