Pollen

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Energy Saving Q&A:

Get your air conditioner in top condition

(NC)—Summer is just around the corner and getting your air conditioner ready is top of mind. We've asked Dave Walton, Director of Home Ideas at Direct Energy to answer a few questions on air conditioning units:

Q: Should I install a central air conditioning system?

A: When it comes to battling Canada's extreme temperatures, central air conditioning systems are a great choice. They are energy efficient, have low operating costs, are quiet, and are a good long-term investment. In addition to keeping you cool and comfortable, a central air system can add to your home's resale value.

Q: If I install a central air conditioning unit, how much maintenance is involved?

A: Central air conditioning units are easy to maintain. To make sure your system runs as efficiently as possible, it's important to keep the unit clean. Have your system checked annually by a licensed professional and replace your filter every

three months.

Q: How long do central air conditioning systems last? A: A central air conditioning system is a long-term investment. The life expectancy of a durable system is approximately 15 years. Make sure the warranty offers at least ten years on the compressor and five years on all other parts.

Q: What happens if my central air system stops work-

A: Prevention is the best medicine, so we recommend having an air conditioning protection plan, like Direct Energy's Cooling Protection Plan. For just a few dollars a week, you'll be covered for most repairs and replacement parts. You'll also enjoy priority service if you require a service call. This type of plan combined with regular maintenance will leave you feeling confident - and a whole lot cooler.

More information is available toll-free at 1-888-DE-HVAC1 or online at www.directenergy.com.



More Pond Myths Debunked

Water in the landscape is a lifestyle more and more people are choosing every day. Check back each week as we dispel some of the common myths surrounding this latest trend in gardening.

Myth 5: Water gardening involves a lot of hard work.

Fact: Not necessarily. A well-designed ecologically-balanced pond needs only a scoop of powdered (it comes in liquid too) bacteria every month or so, the skimmer basket cleaned every two weeks, plus an annual clean-out in cold climates. In gardening terms, an ecologically-balanced pond is about as much work as a maintaining an established perennial border, minus the weeding and watering. Aquatic plants water themselves.

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FACTS ABOUT INDOOR AIR POLLUTION:

Fact: One out of six people who suffer from allergies do so because of the direct relationship Before to fungi and bacteria in air duct systems. (Total Health & Better Health Magazines)

Fact: Most people spend 60-90% of their time indoors. (American Lung Association)

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- Increase system efficiency Improve air quality & comfort
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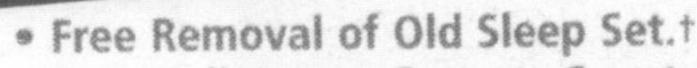
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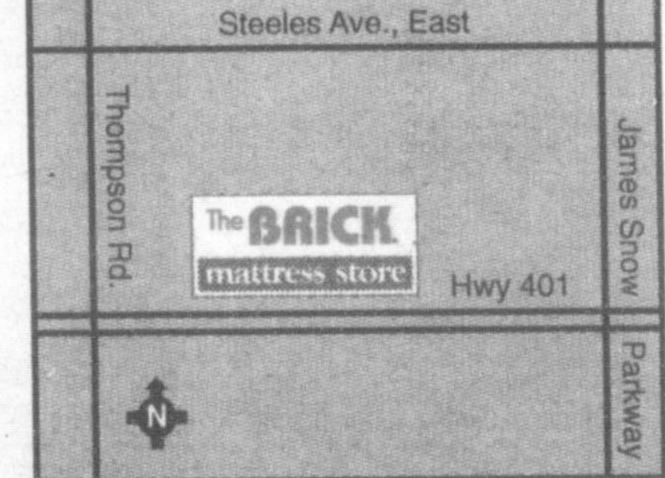


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