



### Summer Fun Issue

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#### Thake services:

- ◆ Propane, Electric, Wood Furnaces & Fireplaces
- ◆ Central & Ductless Air Conditioners
- ◆ Geothermal Heat Pumps
- ◆ Cold Weather Air Source Heat Pumps
- ◆ Automatic Standby Generators
- ◆ 24 Hour Service

## Expert's Corner

### Welcome to summer!

I hope you are having a great time with family and friends. Here at Thake our pleasure is in making sure your home cooling is as comfortable as you want it to be.

I hope these articles can help improve your life. I know clean air is vital to our health and comfort. Sometimes filters can be confusing.

If you have any questions about which filter will work best in your unit, please call me.

You want the best balance of clean air and energy efficiency.

### Balance Humidity

Another trick to comfort is balancing the moisture in your

house. When you lower the humidity you can feel more comfortable, even when the temperature is cranked up a bit.

Sometimes a dehumidifier adds to your well-being. It might be a cost effective addition to your home.

**Please know we value you.** We appreciate your patronage. We enjoy serving you.

Feel free to call with a simple question. We know that when you are informed, you can



make the best choice for you.

**We stand ready to help—** in the small things... and in the urgent emergencies.

Take care.

**Chris and Cindy Dobson**

## Improve Your Indoor Air Quality

Did you know people spend as much as 90% of their lives inside? Make sure your indoor air quality is the best it can be.

Studies show indoor pollutants can be 25% - 60% worse than the outside air. Paint, smoking, cooking, cleaning, and new furniture or flooring all pollute.

### How can it be cleaner?

- ◆ **Good ventilation.** Vent

cooking smells. When you clean, see if you can open windows to let the fumes escape.

- ◆ **General cleaning.** Keeping your home dusted and vacuumed. That can pull dust, molds, and pollens out of the air you breathe. Bacteria often piggy-back on dust or molds so you clean those out, too.

- ◆ **Good HVAC filters.** Use good quality filters and change them as needed.

- ◆ **Air Purifiers.** HEPA air purifiers can clean 99.9% of biological contaminants out of the air. UV purifiers destroy mold, bacteria, germs, viruses, and fungi.

Enjoy better health as you keep your indoor air clean.

## Can MERV Give You A Cleaner House?

Your HVAC filter does two things. It keeps the coils and insides of your system clean. And it keeps your air clean.

While you don't spend much time looking inside your heat and air system, you do notice the dust, smells, and pollen in your house.

You can reduce that with a good filter.

### MERV Ratings Numbers

The key is to know the MERV rating of your filter. They range from 1-20. The higher the rating the more it cleans from the air.

### Higher is not always better

Too high and it stops your HVAC from working well.

Cheap fiberglass filters have a MERV rating of about 3-4. They only trap lint and heavy dust particles. They are bad for your system and

unhealthy for you.

Filters with a MERV of 8-10 will also pick up mold, mite debris, pet dander and pollen. When you increase the rating to an 11 you'll trap all the above plus fine dust and auto emissions.

Move to a 12 and you'll also capture bacteria, sub-pollen particles, pollution and most viruses.

### Can You Go Too High?

How high is best for your furnace? It depends on your supply fan. It must suck air through the filter.

If the filter is too dense—especially as it collects dust—it makes the fan work harder. Most HVAC systems are not strong enough to handle anything over a MERV 12.

### Check Your System

You can check your fan and your filter in this simple way. Take the air temperature when the heat or AC is on and the fan is blowing.

Measure right at a vent. Then remove the old filter and measure again.

Put in your new filter and measure a third time.

If the temperature changes more than 3 degrees be-

tween no filter and the new filter, the filter is making the system work harder.

That may cost more in energy and stress the system. It may stop your HVAC from keeping you home at a comfortable temperature.



### Choose the Best Filter

So choose a filter that gives you the best air quality and at the same time lets your HVAC system work optimally.

Have clean air every day. Then you'll have less dusting to do.

## Ask Dot: What's the Best Generator Size?

**Dear Dot:** After the last storm left us powerless, I want a generator. How can I know what size will work for me? Signed: Tired of Candles

**Dear Tired of Candles:** I wish I could say we won't get storms again. But of course we will. The first step is to find the amount of power you need.

- Ask yourself what electrical things do you want to work when the power is off? Furnace or AC? Pump? Refrigerator? Hair dryer? Computer? What is essential to you? What can you live without?
- Most of your appliances come with wattage ratings labeled on them. Sometimes you'll see a start-up surge rating too. If you can't find the label, search for "Appliance Wattage Ratings" online. This will give you a general range of power needed.
- Add up the appliances you want to use to find the size of the generating unit you need.

Remember, you may not need to use all the appliances at the same time. You may use the toaster, then the hair dryer. Or power the furnace for a while, then the refrigerator.



## Protect Yourself and Your Home with a Backup Generator

Ice. Winter storms. Lightning strikes. Even a squirrel on a power line can cause electricity to go out in your home. Sometimes it's just for a moment or an hour. But what happens if the damage takes days or weeks to fix?

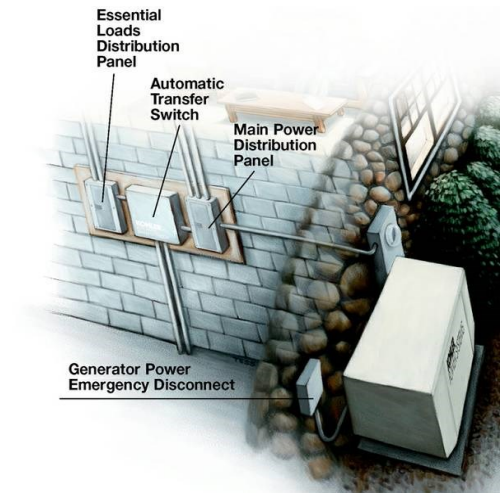
Some studies show electrical outages are increasing about 7% each year. Aging infrastructure and climate change may be contributing to that. If you don't want to leave the comfort of your home to chance, think about a back-up generator.

- ◆ **Portable generators** can power a few simple electrical items—TV, lights, tools, maybe a refrigerator. These are best for short term emergencies.
- ◆ **Back-up generators** are more

powerful. They will often supply power to your furnace, lights, refrigerator/freezer as well as TV and computers. They are tied into your home's electrical system.

- ◆ **Manual back-up generator** require you to switch over the power source and turn on the generator. With a standby generator, they do the work for you.
- ◆ **A standby generator** monitors the electric system. If power stops flowing from the utility company, the generator starts automatically. It continues to check the utility lines.

As soon as the power comes back on, it switches the power source back to the electric lines and goes back to standby mode. A standby generator gives you



nearly continuous electricity.

Generators can create electricity from gasoline, natural gas, or propane.

## Should You Care About SEER Ratings?

SEER ratings tell you how efficiently your cooling system works. Whether you have an air conditioner or a heat pump-- they both have SEER ratings.

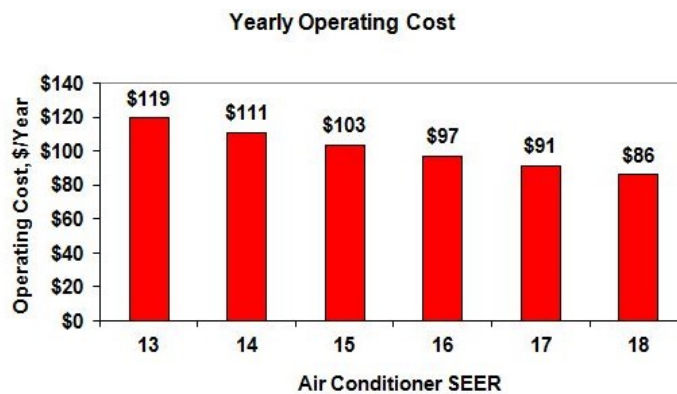
### What is SEER?

S.E.E.R stands for Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio. It's created by measuring the total cooling output for an average season divided by the energy used.

The higher the rating, the more energy efficient your cooling system is.

Current Canadian regulations require new units be at least a 13 SEER. To have the Energy Star rating they must have at least a 14 or 14.5 SEER.

New high tech units may be rated at 26.1 SEER. Of course, the higher the SEER,



the higher the price.

### Will you Save?

See if the energy savings will make up for the higher price.

New units have an average life span of 15 years, if you maintain them.

Your energy savings may be noticeable. Savings depends

on the age and SEER of your current unit.

### Your savings depends on three things:

1. The length of your summer season
2. The cost of your electricity
3. The efficiency of your AC unit.

The older the unit, the more you are likely to save.

### Do the Savings Stop?

It doesn't always make sense to upgrade. If you already have a more efficient model, moving higher will not save as much.

The chart shows savings for your area and summer season.

### How to Find the Savings

Compare your spring bills to your summer bills with the AC running. Look at the cost of a season of running your AC.

Then check the increased efficiency of a higher SEER unit. Find the percent you'll save on a season and multiply that by 15 years.

This shows you if it's worth upgrading now. If you need a new unit, check with us. We'll help you find the best SEER rating for your money.



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Stamp Here

### Enjoy Better Views from Your Windows

Mother Nature sends dust and water against our windows. The time comes when we look out them, we must look past the layer of grime that has collected. Here is a quick remedy.

- ◆ **Clean the screens.** If they are easy to remove, take them off. Wash them with soapy water and a soft brush. If they are not easy to remove, vacuum them to get rid of as much dust as you can.
- ◆ **Clean the windows.** Avoid chemicals that pollute and use 1/2 c. vinegar in 2c. water. You can also add 1/2 tsp dish-washing soap for an extra boost. Spray it on the windows.
- ◆ **Avoid streaks.** Wipe quickly to avoid streaking. Use a squeegee or crumpled newspaper to dry. Another lint-free solution is wiping with a microfiber cloth.

Now step back and enjoy the view!



## Are Your Windows Letting In More Than Light?

Windows are not measured in R-value like walls. But if they were, they would rate miserably.

- Single pane windows— R-1
- Double pain windows— R-2
- Low-e windows— R-3-4
- Argon filled low-e windows— R-4-5

You can see even the best windows fall far short of well insulated walls or roofs. Typically walls have an R-11-15 factor and ceilings can range to R-44.

The average home loses 30-50% of it's heat or AC through the windows.

### How Do Windows Lose or Gain Heat?

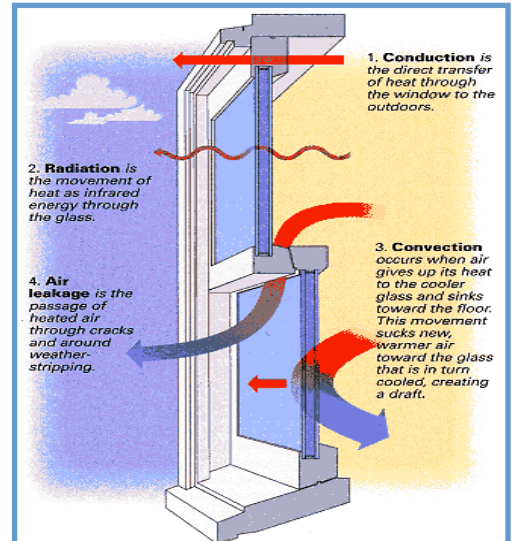
Windows let the weather into the house four ways:

1. **Radiant heat** passes through the window as infrared waves.
2. **Air leaks** through cracks around the windows.

3. **Conduction** transfers heat directly through the windows.
4. **Convection** warms air next to the window and moves it into the house.

### How Can I make my windows more energy efficient?

- ◆ **Drapes.** This is a time honored tradition. Pulling the drapes blocks the sun. Reflective drapes trap heat in the gap. They also reflect some energy back out.
- ◆ **Awnings.** Stop the sun from hitting your windows with awnings or tree shade. This will reduce the heat entering the house.
- ◆ **Window films.** These reduce glare and stop radiant heat by absorbing it. Sometimes that added heat at the glass causes it to crack.
- ◆ **Solar Blinds.** Patented blinds trap heat, seal window leakage, and pre-



vention conduction and convection. They can bring your windows up to an R 13. Call us and ask about Krumpers Solar Blinds.

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