

VINCENT'S NEWS

The 'Van-Go' Gallery



"Wherever you see a 'Vincent's Van Go' you know the job will be a work of art."

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OWNER'S CORNER

THROUGH MY EYES

For Father's Day last month, my wife Karen got me a cart to pull behind my John Deere lawn tractor. Just what I wanted!

When we moved to our new house 18 months ago, we went from a typical residential sized lot to a full acre with lots of grass, lots of driveway, and lots of trees.

So much for my plan to scale-back into a

house that required less outside maintenance! But it was the right place for us and we both are very happy with our new location.

However, as an accommodation for the extra outside-the-house work I was taking on, we both agreed that I needed a lawn tractor – something

that could mow the lawn in the summer, mulch the leaves in the fall, and clear the driveway and sidewalk in

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Here I am with my lawn tractor pulling the cart I got for my Father's Day gift from Karen.

Did you know...

...our Kool Kap summer savings are still available? See the enclosed flyer for details on how you can permanently protect your A/C from leaves, dirt, and debris.

An Air Conditioner's #1 Job – Part 4— How An Air Conditioner Is Installed Affects Performance

As detailed in the previous installments, removing humidity is an air conditioners #1 job. To understand why it is removing humidity instead of cooling look up the May 2017 issue. All the issues in the series are online at www.VHPinc.com/gallery.

As we have explored in this series, making sure that the A/C size is

correct and that you have proper airflow, are part of the design process a company should use when installing or replacing an A/C system. If these are not correct the air conditioner won't perform as it should to remove humidity. However, just as important are the actual installation processes the company

employs that not only affect system performance but also system reliability and longevity. This month we look at how installing an air conditioner affects its performance.

1) When upgrading from one refrigerant to another the air conditioner

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Air Conditioner's #1 Job (Cont'd from Pg. 1)

“evaporator coil” – the part of the A/C attached to the furnace – has to be compatible with the refrigerant. If you have an R-22 refrigerant system and you are going to an R-410A refrigerant system the coil must be changed. Not only are the refrigerant oils incompatible but R-410A coils are designed to function at significantly higher pressures than R-22 coils.

2) When upgrading from one refrigerant to another the air conditioner “line set” – the refrigerant tubing that connects the evaporator coil attached to the furnace to the outside A/C condenser may be replaced or reused. Line sets are primarily copper and can withstand higher pressures, However, if it is reused the company must thoroughly flush it to remove all residual oil and contaminants.

It is critical that refrigerants are not mixed and become contaminated with another refrigerant. Unfortunately, there are companies that are not careful about this. At Vincent's Heating & Plumbing, our technicians have tools that are dedicated to each type of refrigerant in order to protect your system from contamination.

3) After the air conditioner refrigerant side has been connected the refrigerant side must be pressure tested. Typically, this is by filling the system with nitrogen to a

pressure higher than the maximum operating pressure. This verifies that there are no system breaches that cause the refrigerant to be lost by leaking out.

4) After the pressure test, the system must be evacuated to get rid of any moisture in the system. By putting the system into a deep vacuum, water ‘boils away’ and is purged from the system through a vacuum pump. If a company takes a short cut and skips this step, any water or moisture in the system will cause a chemical reaction that creates acid that over time will damage the air conditioner. At Vincent's Heating & Plumbing, we not only put the system into a vacuum one-time, but three times — a “triple-evacuation.” After the first evacuation, we fill the vacuum with nitrogen and put the system into a vacuum a second time, and then repeat the process a third time until we get rid of any harmful moisture. Unfortunately, there are some A/C companies that don't even own a vacuum pump.

5) During the system evacuation, the system must be tested for leaks. During step 4) above, after achieving the required vacuum, the system is left to see if the vacuum ‘holds’. If after turning off the vacuum pump, the vacuum gauge remains steady and unmoving, the system is determined to be leak free. If

not, then the leak must be found and repaired, and then steps 3 -5 are repeated until there are no leaks.

Only after all these steps are done should the refrigerant be added. While the A/C usually comes pre-charged with refrigerant from the factory, the amount of refrigerant usually needs to be adjusted.

Did you notice anything about all of these critical steps? Neither you nor an inspector is going to be able to look at a completed A/C installation and know whether the company did any or all of this. Why wouldn't a company do all of these steps? – because it takes a lot more time and effort. Companies that are focused more on a cheap price in order to get the job rather than doing the job right have to cut corners – and these steps are the perfect place to cut them because you may never know.

On the other hand, with our One and Two Year Satisfaction Guarantees (based on the package you choose) you can rest assured knowing that when you choose Vincent's Heating & Plumbing that we will do the job right. We put our ‘money’ where our mouth is based on your satisfaction. Next month we'll look at the other factors – and what you can do to prevent them.- *Daniel Squires*

Through My Eyes (Continued from Page 1)

the winter. And so I got the tractor and doing all these chores has never been more enjoyable.

However, with the wooded lot came a lot of branches that fall down and need to be moved. Fortunately we have a fire pit, so I have a place to put them. However, this entails a lot of walking and dragging of branches across our property to get them where they need to be.

Now, as helpful as this was toward my reaching my daily Fitbit steps goal, between all the bending over to first pick up and then to drag the seemingly endless supply of branches and sticks to the fire pit, it got old fast and is a pretty tiring task. And so an idea was hatched in my head: why not add a cart to my tractor so I could increase my efficiency in my job? I could pull the cart to where I needed it and pile a whole load onto it, saving time and saving steps!

And of course, to help sell the idea other uses for a cart came to mind, such as carting barrels of water to my compost pile at the back of my property, which is too far for the hose to reach. And while that was a practical idea, some were stretches: Karen really didn't think she needed to have the cart for her gardening although she appreciated the sentiment.

So I asked for a cart, and Karen got it for me for Father's Day.

Now, I know I didn't need to justify a Father's Day gift, but it's just the way that I am wired. I like to be practical, and so I needed to make certain that it would be something useful and not just be a whim and end up unused and taking space.

And this practicality is a good trait to have in my role at Vincent's Heating & Plumbing. I am always looking for ways to make us more efficient to provide better customer service

while making certain that the expense is justified.

This is the same thinking process I used when I recently invested in ProPress System connection tools that are used to connect copper piping and fittings. In the past, the only method we had for connecting copper was to sweat it using a torch with an open flame. With the ProPress system there is no need for a torch, and so the risk of fire is eliminated. It also saves labor time as it only takes seconds for the ProPress tool to squeeze it's special fittings onto the pipe being connected using thousands of pounds of mechanical force. The ProPress is costly, but the benefits of safety and efficiency make it worthwhile so we can deliver you better customer service.

– Daniel Squires

What Our Clients Are Saying...

I am very comfortable with the techs that come twice a year for my checkup... and I really appreciate the call ahead of time telling me the name of the tech ... as a single woman this eases any fears.

Sandy — St. Clair

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Word Search: Yard Work

O L U E G X P R B D N I B G N
L T E L D A M U L C H Q U R E
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Z C W W F R E L K N I R P S R
V X X N T B O R X R U P W S A
V Q L M C W L O Z Y K O S E G
R K P O D K L O X B F D R P C
V F X W G E A G W G E N E O K
T R E E T R I M M E R C V U G
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Humor Section



A guy walks into a club to meet a friend. He notices two attractive women looking at him. He overhears one of them lean over and whisper "Nine" to her companion. Pleased with himself he swaggers over to his friend. "Do you see those two good looking women over there? One of them just rated me a 9 out of 10!" His friend says, "I hate to ruin it for you, but when I walked in they were speaking German."

Did you hear about the woman that requested that when she died she wanted her ashes to be scattered over Wal-Mart? ***She said then she'd be sure her family visits her twice a week.***

Did you hear about the surgeon that always returns the books he borrows with the last few pages missing? ***He can't stop himself from removing an appendix when he sees one.***