

VINCENT'S NEWS

The 'Van-Go' Gallery

Owner's Corner

67 Years of Excellence!



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Did you know...

....that replacing a dirty furnace filter is one of the simplest ways to improve airflow and help your heating and cooling system operate more efficiently?

THROUGH MY EYES

The celebration of our nation's 250th Independence Day made me stop and think about the many freedoms, opportunities, and blessings we enjoy as Americans.

Recently, foreign visitors to the United States for the World Cup soccer tournament have been pleasantly surprised and amazed by our country, marveling at everything from its breathtaking size and natural

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



While plumbing and HVAC techs have traditionally been men, at VHP we have opened the door for female technicians. Pictured from left to right are Hailee, Breonna and Brooklyn.

The Summer Carbon Monoxide Danger Most Homeowners Never Consider

Earlier this summer we were called out for a problem that had **baffled the fire department**. The homeowner had noticed a burnt smell coming from their laundry room, where their furnace and water heater are located. Concerned that something might be burning, they called the fire department. The firefighters thoroughly checked the area but couldn't find anything burning, the source of the odor, or any carbon monoxide. They recommended that the homeowner contact an HVAC contractor. Fortunately, they called us.

Neither the fire department nor our tech could initially find the source of the problem. The difference was that our tech knew something that most homeowners - and many techs - don't realize: carbon monoxide problems can appear and disappear depending on which appliances are operating in a home. Further, most people associate carbon monoxide dangers with furnaces and winter weather. What many don't realize is that an air conditioner can sometimes contribute to a carbon monoxide problem in the middle of summer by changing airflow inside.

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The Summer CO Danger... (Continued from Pg. 1)

a home.

So, our tech turned on the water heater, clothes dryer, and air conditioner before testing again for carbon monoxide. Bingo. With the water heater running and the AC and dryer moving large amounts of air through the home, the laundry room was being placed under negative pressure. In simple terms, more air was being pulled out of the room than could easily get back in.

The house started pulling replacement air down the water heater vent instead of allowing the exhaust gases to travel safely up and out of the home. This condition is called 'back-drafting.' Instead of venting outdoors, the water heater's exhaust gases - including potentially deadly carbon monoxide - were spilling back into the laundry room.

When we find 'back-

drafting,' the next step is figuring out why it's happening. Sometimes the cause is leaky ductwork in crawlspaces, attics, or other unconditioned spaces. In those cases, sealing the ductwork can improve safety while also reducing energy loss. In other homes, the solution may be upgrading to a power-vent or tankless water heater.

The homeowner explained that two people had taken showers around the time the smell appeared, meaning the water heater was operating. A load of laundry had also been put in the dryer, and the air conditioner was running. Without these running the symptoms disappeared.

Whatever ultimately prompted the homeowner to make the call was fortunate. CO itself has no odor. The smell they noticed wasn't CO - it was simply a sign that something unusual was happening. Without that warning, a

dangerous condition could have gone undetected for a long time.

Cases like this are why we invest so heavily in training. Solving CO problems often require more than checking equipment. Unfortunately, there are currently no requirements for carbon monoxide or combustion analysis training for HVAC technicians or plumbers. Because safety is important to us - and because we want to provide you and our other clients with a higher level of service - all our techs are certified Carbon Monoxide and Combustion Analysts.

It's wise to have your water heater serviced annually for safety and performance. Testing for 'back-drafting' is one of many safety procedures we include on our Plumbing & Water Heater Service maintenance visit. See the enclosed flyer for more information.

- Brendan Squires

What Our Clients Are Saying ...



"I cannot thank you enough! This morning, Easter Sunday at 4:30 am, we woke up to a broken sump pump and a flooded basement. Not only was your plumber here in 30 minutes but she fixed our problem in less than 30 minutes! We are so grateful for Brooklyn and this company! I recommend your company over all others!"

Kris Brown, Saint Clair

Through My Eyes (Continued from Pg. 1)

beauty to everyday things we often overlook - like convenience stores attached to gas stations. This isn't the first time that seeing America through the eyes of foreign visitors has helped us understand what a remarkable nation we have.

Nearly two centuries ago, Alexis de Tocqueville traveled throughout the United States and was also amazed by our country and especially the American people. He believed that America's commitment to faith, virtue, self-government, and civic involvement was a major source of its strength.

He is often credited with saying, "America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great." Whether or not he actually said those exact words, they capture a principle he clearly believed: that a free nation depends not only on its laws and institutions, but also on the character of its people.

Another characteristic that has long defined America is innovation. Americans have consistently looked for ways to improve everyday life through practical invention and ingenuity.

One example that affects nearly all of us every day is air conditioning. AC has become so commonplace that we seldom stop to think about how much it has improved our quality of life. We expect our homes, cars, offices, stores, churches, and restaurants to be comfortable no matter how hot and humid it is outside.

That expectation is not universal. While AC is common in the United States, it remains much less common in many parts of Europe.

Public comparisons continue to report about 90% air-conditioning adoption in U.S. homes versus much lower adoption across Europe.

Recent record-breaking heat and an alarming number of heat-related deaths across Europe reminds us that AC is more than just comfort. It can also help protect health and well-being. Access to cooling is an important way to reduce heat-related risks.

I'm also grateful for the innovations that allow us to better serve our clients. When I first started, I often had to stop at pay phones to contact the office. Looking back, it's remarkable how much has changed. Today we have cell phones, texting, GPS, the internet, electronic records, and diagnostic tools that allow us to communicate faster and serve our clients more efficiently than ever before.

But tools alone do not make a company better. They require a team of people who care about doing the job right and that's why we are so particular about the people that we send to your home. We continue to invest in new tools and processes - not simply because they are new, but because they help us provide better service. It's part of our commitment to you and our other clients. We're fortunate to live in a country where innovation fosters these improvements.

This is a country that has blessed us not only with freedom, but also with opportunity and innovation that make our daily lives safer, healthier, and more comfortable. As we celebrate America's 250th we have a lot of things to be thankful for.

-Daniel Squires

Vincent's Heating & Plumbing is proud to install Amana equipment, made in the USA.



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Vincent's News is
published 11-months
per year.

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available in PDF
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Humor Section



A woman goes into the confessional and says, "Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. I am guilty of the sin of pride. Every morning when I look in the mirror, I can't help but think about how beautiful I am."

The priest looks through the screen, takes a long look at her, and replies, "Go in peace, my child. That's not a sin—that's just a mistake."

Now that's good news!

"God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble."

Psalms 46:1

How To Catch A Plumbing Problem Before It Becomes An Emergency

Most plumbing emergencies don't actually begin as emergencies.

A water heater doesn't suddenly become unsafe overnight. A sewer line doesn't suddenly start deteriorating. A shutoff valve doesn't suddenly seize up the day you need it.

In many cases, the warning signs have been there for months - sometimes even years.

The challenge is that most of these problems develop quietly, behind walls, under floors, underground, or inside equipment that homeowners rarely see.

That's why we developed our Plumbing & Water Heater Service.

Its purpose isn't simply maintenance. Its purpose is to help you identify small concerns before they become expensive, disruptive, or potentially dangerous problems.

What Every Homeowner Should Know About Water Heaters

Most homeowners think of their water heater as just another appliance.

In reality, your water heater combines water under pressure, high temperatures, electricity or natural gas, and safety devices that are designed to protect your family and your home.

Yet it is often one of the most overlooked pieces of equipment in a house.

During your visit, we'll inspect the water heater's safety systems, look for signs of wear, evaluate venting where applicable, check gas connections on gas-fired units, and perform the maintenance recommended for your particular type of water heater.

The goal isn't simply maintenance - it's confidence that your water heater is operating safely and efficiently.

When 'Improvement' Creates A New Problem

Over the years we've seen homeowners invest in newer windows, additional insulation, tighter doors, and other energy-saving improvements.

Those upgrades often make a home more comfortable and efficient.

But occasionally they can create unintended consequences.

A home that becomes significantly tighter may affect how combustion appliances exhaust their flue gases. In some situations this can lead to a condition known as **'back-drafting'** - where exhaust gases fail to move outside as intended. *(As described in the August 2026 Vincent's News technical article.)*

That's why we don't simply inspect equipment. We look at how the equipment is operating within your home.

Because a system that was safe ten years ago may deserve a fresh look after the house around it has changed.

What Else Are We Looking For?

While we're there, we'll also inspect your home's plumbing system. Many homeowners are surprised to learn how often small plumbing issues are discovered long before they become emergencies.

- *Water shutoffs that no longer operate properly.*
- *Drain lines showing early signs of deterioration.*
- *Small leaks that haven't yet caused noticeable damage.*
- *Plumbing fixtures that are beginning to wear out.*
- *Potential safety concerns that may otherwise go unnoticed.*

If your home was built before the 1970s, there's another issue worth paying attention to. Many cast iron drain systems installed during that era are reaching the end of their useful life. As I often tell homeowners, this is the sort of problem that we can often *'head off at the pass'* before it develops into a larger, more expensive one.

OVER...

...continued from reverse side

When A Plumbing Emergency Happens, Are You Ready?

Here's a simple question: Do you know where your home's main water shutoff is?

A surprising number of homeowners don't.

Even more importantly, many homeowners who know where it is have never verified that it actually works.

During your visit, we'll identify your main water shutoff and test it to make certain it operates properly.

We'll also test accessible fixture shutoffs and emergency stops so you'll have confidence they'll work if they're ever needed.

This may be one of the most valuable things we do. Because when a plumbing emergency occurs, minutes matter.

What Peace Of Mind Looks Like

- ✓ Your water heater's primary safety systems have been inspected.
- ✓ Your water heater venting system has been evaluated for signs of improper drafting or exhaust concerns.
- ✓ Your water heater has received important maintenance appropriate for its type.
- ✓ A plumbing professional has looked over your home's plumbing system.
- ✓ Your main water shutoff has been located and tested.
- ✓ Potential concerns have been identified before they become emergencies.
- ✓ You'll be better prepared should a plumbing problem ever arise.

Bonus: Complimentary Sewer Video Inspection

One of the most expensive plumbing systems in your home is also one of the few you rarely see.

Your sewer line.

That's why we're including a complimentary sewer video inspection when you try our Plumbing & Water Heater Service.

A sewer camera inspection allows us to look inside the line for signs of roots, deterioration, offsets, and other developing concerns - helping you understand the condition of a critical system that normally remains hidden underground.

Two Ways To Invest In Peace Of Mind

One-Time Visit: Schedule a **Plumbing & Water Heater Service visit** whenever you'd like a comprehensive review of your water heater and home's plumbing system.

Annual Protection: Many clients prefer to make this an annual visit through our **Enhanced Service Plan**, which provides annual inspections along with additional membership benefits, discounts, priority service, and extended service hours. ***In addition, the annual cost of an Enhanced Service Plan is \$50 less than a one-time visit!***

Problems are almost always easier to solve when they're discovered early.

A Plumbing & Water Heater Service visit helps you understand what's happening inside some of the most important systems in your home - before small concerns have the opportunity to become large ones.

Call Vincent's Heating & Plumbing at (810) 985-7103

*Ask about our Plumbing & Water Heater Service with
Complimentary Sewer Video Inspection.*

Sewer Video Inspection Conditions: Scheduled maintenance visit for a functioning sewer - not backed up. Accessible cleanout required. Inspection only - clearing roots, debris, or other items is extra. Inspection limited to 70 feet.

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