

VINCENT'S NEWS

The 'Van-Go' Gallery

OWNER'S CORNER



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

67 Years of Excellence!



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Did you know...

...that a plugged or dirty furnace air filter can raise your gas bill by reducing air flow?

If you haven't replaced it recently it would be a good idea to check it's condition - and maybe install a brand new one.

THROUGH MY EYES

I have always been interested in cooking. There is a part of me that sees this as getting in touch with my heritage. My maternal great-grandfather was a cook at the AFLCIO camp where Lakeport State Park currently is. Because of its affiliation with the union, many politicians and other prominent figures such as Henry Ford would frequent the camp. When I was

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Replacing a boiler and a water heater with a 'Combi-Boiler' saves a lot of space.

'Combi-Boiler' Advantages: Convenience, Space-Saving Design, And Energy Efficiency

With every technical innovation, there is a tipping point where new technology overtakes older technology in popularity. Even after the first touchscreen phone, the iPhone, was released in 2007, Blackberry, a now forgotten brand, dominated the smartphone market, peaking in market share in 2011. However, it soon experienced a steep erosion in sales, halting manufacturing of devices in 2016.

The technology underpinning HVAC systems has not changed much in the last 30 years. Newer

technologies have emerged, but few have caught hold. However, recently, I have started to notice a trend in our boiler market. Over the past 18 months, it seems that combi-boilers have been more popular than traditional cast-iron boilers.

A combi-boiler is a 2-in-1 system that "combines" a boiler with a tankless water heater. They have been around for a long time. In fact, they have been prevalent in Europe for decades. But they have not caught on in the United States until recently. Technological innovations have made them more appealing -

Continued Page 2

Combi-Boilers ... (Continued from Pg. 1)

even in our local area recently. Why is it that combi-boilers are so in demand? I think it boils down (pun intended) to three things: they offer convenience, space savings, and efficiency.

Convenience

As mentioned above, combi-boilers heat your home as well as heating your water. Combi-boilers act like tankless water heaters, supplying endless hot water. No need to dread being the last in line to take a shower in the morning. Or wondering if there is enough hot water remaining to fill the bathtub. Additionally, eliminating a stand-alone water heater reduces installation and upkeep costs significantly. If you have a boiler and want a tankless water heater, it's practically a no-brainer.

Space Saving

Boilers are rarely located in a convenient spot. Often, they are in a laundry room or

closet. Even when boilers are in a wide-open basement, they take up a large footprint, meaning less space for storage or for building a finished area. Combi-boilers solve this pain point because they are wall hung units: the boiler is mounted to the wall, and all the components and pipes are tight to the wall. The floor space that the boiler once occupied is now able to be used for anything. And since combi-boilers eliminate the need for a separate water heater, the space formerly occupied by a water heater is gained as well.

Efficiency

Combi-boilers offer 95% AFUE compared to 84% for the traditional boiler. This means that as a baseline, they are rated to be 11% more efficient than a brand-new, cast-iron boiler. But this is only the baseline. When temperatures are mild, combi-boilers can offer even more savings. This is because they have sensors

that monitor the outdoor temperature and modulate their output accordingly. When the weather is mild, they can operate at much lower temperatures than traditional boilers, saving more energy than even the 95% AFUE rating suggests.

Conclusion

As technology progresses, sometimes older technologies must fade to make room for new products. While I don't think cast-iron boilers are heading the way of the dinosaur just yet, I do think combi-boilers will continue to gain in popularity due to the combination of convenience, space savings, and efficiency that they offer customers.

If you would like to explore the advantages of upgrading to a combi-boiler give us a call.

- Brendan Squires

What Our Clients Are Saying ...



"VHP takes care of all our service needs! They are fast and dependable. The workers are wonderful. They explain what needs to be done along with the pros and cons. I really appreciate how they go above and beyond for us. They help us get help from other companies if they can't do it themselves. Thank you!"

- Mary & Mike Daniels - Goodells

Through My Eyes (Continued from Pg. 1)

young, my mother would share stories about my great-grandfather and great-grandmother, a fiery woman who was not afraid to give a piece of her mind to the many VIPs who visited the camp.

Although I have made food for myself for a long time, my interest went to a whole new level during the COVID lockdown. Like many people who took up new hobbies because there was little alternative, I became immersed in cooking. I would watch countless recipe videos on YouTube, plan out my next couple meals, and go to the store to purchase whatever ingredients were necessary. Grocery shopping was a free pass to get out of lockdown, so I didn't mind making a couple extra trips. Plus, I still had some disposable income because that was in the B.C. era (before children!).

I learned a lot about the culinary arts during that time. Although I would by no means call myself a great cook, my skills have improved. But the biggest lesson I learned has nothing to do with food preparation. What I learned is that there is a difference between doing an activity and doing that same activity as a hobby. If you start something as a hobby, get ready to drop a few dollars. Cooking is no exception. For years, the pots and pans that my wife and I received as wedding gifts were sufficient for our needs. Then I got into cooking as a hobby and I found myself owning all sorts of new things.

Since having children, life is a bit different. My "clientele's" favorite pasta dish

is Spaghetti-Os and their "white" of choice is 2%. The dishes that I make are different than before. Many of the kitchen gadgets I acquired sit gathering dust. However, I did recently pull out my pasta maker. I thought my son, who is four now, might be interested in making noodles with me. He helped for a total of 10 minutes. I will try again when he and his sister are a bit older.

Although I don't have time to cook like I used to, occasionally, a new gadget still seems to find its way into my shopping cart. But I have learned another lesson: the difference between doing something as a hobby and doing something professionally. Even if I acquire some nice kitchen gadgets, I will never have the resources available in a commercial kitchen. That is why just because you can cook a nice steak doesn't mean you stop going to the steakhouse. For premium cuts, sometimes it is best to leave it to the chef who prepares dozens every week.

This principle extends to our industry. Although someone may be able to purchase nice tools and even some heating and plumbing accessories at local hardware stores, there are many specialized tools and resources that only professionals have. When it comes to carbon monoxide safety or water in your home, leaving it to professionals who deal with these issues day-in and day-out is worth it. VHP is committed to investing in the best tools and training so that we can be equipped for any problem that you may have.

- Brendan Squires



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

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V	A	Z	C	E	A	R	G	H	A	T	E	V	N	V	D	C	S	P	A	Anguilla
Y	K	H	S	R	A	I	C	J	J	W	B	Z	H	A	U	G	U	Z	L	Antigua
A	N	L	U	I	Q	A	C	D	Z	Y	A	B	I	R	S	E	C	F	O	Aruba
I	G	C	W	A	E	R	A	U	K	F	A	N	A	L	R	S	R	F	T	Bahamas
D	Y	E	Q	N	J	U	C	H	L	H	O	C	T	T	E	J	A	O	R	Barbados
G	X	F	K	O	B	B	M	O	A	T	A	F	O	I	O	B	B	U	O	Belize
S	O	D	A	B	R	A	B	M	S	O	S	R	E	A	G	E	M	A	T	Bonaire
Q	T	A	A	B	N	E	A	A	M	T	I	V	C	S	D	U	P	C	T	Cancun
S	T	T	I	K	T	S	H	S	D	C	A	Y	M	A	N	A	A	I	C	Cayman
H	T	R	I	N	I	D	A	D	O	A	T	R	P	O	M	B	N	A	O	Costa Rica
M	A	R	T	I	N	I	Q	U	E	O	N	O	I	S	N	U	P	M	Z	Cozumel
H	E	A	G	B	L	L	U	X	E	E	Z	E	H	C	C	R	A	A	U	Curacao
G	O	Q	O	B	B	B	L	B	M	G	H	A	R	N	A	Z	N	J	M	Dominica
T	H	N	P	U	A	N	G	U	I	L	L	A	A	G	G	T	A	B	E	Grenada
A	C	I	N	I	M	O	D	G	O	J	Z	C	W	F	F	T	M	L	L	Jamaica
O	M	O	X	T	A	H	B	K	G	V	I	U	P	I	W	S	A	P	A	Martinique

Humor Section



A new paratrooper is nervous on his first jump. The jumpmaster reassures him, "Don't worry. When you jump the chute will open, and if it doesn't you've got an emergency chute. In a few minutes you'll be on the ground and we'll have a truck waiting to take you back to base." Reluctantly, the recruit steps out of the plane. The chute doesn't open. He pulls the cord for the emergency chute. It doesn't work either. He looks down at the fast-approaching ground and thinks, "I'll bet they don't have a truck waiting either!"

Now that's good news!

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

- Jeremiah 29:11

How To Get Your Sump Pump Ready For The Spring Thaw

While sump pumps are necessary year-round, with the end of winter and high ground water times around the corner we're coming into a time when sump pumps can work overtime. As such, if you have a sump pump, there are some things that you may want to consider to be certain that you're prepared. Here is a list of safety and operational things concerning your sump pump that you can inspect.

- 1) **Check your electrical power supply.** To make certain that you are safe, make certain that you are protected from an electrical shock – especially important with the pump in water. Your pump should be plugged into a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlet. Press the test button to make certain it is working. Be sure to reset it when done. Also the power cord or the pump itself should be replaced if an examination of the cord shows any fraying or damage.
- 2) **Make certain the pump is positioned correctly.** It needs to be stable and upright in the pit. If there is a visible float switch, make certain that it moves freely. A stuck switch can prevent the pump from activating.
- 3) **Make certain that there isn't any debris, sediment or sludge in the sump pit** that can clog the pump and prevent it from functioning.
- 4) **Check to make certain that your sump pump is clean from sludge** buildup that can restrict water flow. The water quality of the ground water can be a big factor here. Locally some areas have manganese or iron content in the ground water and be prone to creating sludge that can clog up pump discharge lines and sump pump impellers. Here is how you can inspect it:
 - a) **Unplug your pump** from electrical power.
 - b) **Disconnect the pump** from the discharge pipe and lift it out of the pit. ***See photo on reverse side.***
 - c) **Clean the exterior** – including the inlet screen – from any sludge. You can take it to a car wash to use the power washer.
 - d) **While it's removed, check for signs of corrosion or wear.** If there is obvious wear, you



In this photo our plumber, Sean, is working on a double sump-pump system.. Here the second sump pump is installed above the first pump so if the water volume is greater than what the first pump can handle - or if the first one fails - the second sump pump will start pumping water.

may want to replace it.

- 5) **Before reconnecting the pump, check the discharge line.** Make sure that it isn't obstructed or plugged and that water is directed 20 – 25 feet away from your house so it doesn't seep back in.
- 6) **Reconnect the pump, plug it in, and make sure it's working.** You may need to dump a bucket or two of water into the pit to trigger the pump. Make sure it is operating promptly and removing the water.
- 7) **If you have a backup sump pump check it at the same time.** If it has battery, note the condition and charge level. Replace it as per the manufacturer's recommendations.



It's a good idea to do these tasks at least once a year, although if your pump experiences high usage, consider doing it more frequently. When it comes to making certain your sump pump will work, an 'ounce of prevention' is absolutely worth a 'pound of cure'.

If you're uncertain about checking your power, during March our techs will take care of item **1) Check your electrical power supply'** for you at no additional charge on any service or maintenance call.

Protect Your Home From Water Damage!

March Sump Pump Promotion

3 Great Offers to Choose Between:

- 1. Replace Your Sump Pump and Save \$50 Off the Regular Price.**
- 2. Add Or Replace A Backup* Sump Pump And Save \$100 Off The Regular Price. (*Battery Or Water Powered*)**
- 3. Replace Your Sump Pump AND Add Or Replace A Backup Sump Pump And Save \$200 Off The Regular Package Price.**

To take advantage of this offer call Vincent's Heating & Plumbing at (810) 985-7103 and ask for the

March Sump Pump Promotion

Offer Expires April 4, 2026 Financing Available!

Three “Brutal” Reasons Why You Should Have Your Furnace’s Ductwork Cleaned.

(Not intended for the squeamish)

Reason # 1 - Picture yourself taking deep breaths from your vacuum cleaner’s bag -- just before you empty it!

As awful as this sounds, it gives you an accurate picture of what the air you breathe is like after it passes through the crud and decaying material in your furnace’s ductwork.

That’s because your ductwork is a lot like your vacuum cleaner. And if you think about it, the main difference is that your vacuum only runs a few minutes each day compared to the hours on end that your furnace fan runs. Every time your furnace runs, things are sucked into your ductwork. Things like dust, pet hair, cooking grease, cigarette smoke and other debris that will stay in your ductwork -- until they eventually breakdown and are released back into the air stream for you and your family to breathe.

Anyone who has ever cleaned underneath or behind their refrigerator knows just how much gunk a fan will collect. So if you want to know what’s in the dark depths of your ductwork, just look in your vacuum cleaner -- and see what you’re breathing, too. This alone is reason enough to get your ducts emptied.

Reason # 2 - Maybe you just “*thought*” the cat ran away...

This sounds extreme, but you wouldn’t believe what we find in ductwork. I can’t say we’ve found anything as large as a cat, but we have seen everything else imaginable. Everything from long forgotten victims of *De-Con* to lost pet turtles that now only resemble small ashtrays.

You see, even though you’re the best housekeeper in the world, what about the person who lived in the house before you? Unless it’s a new house, you don’t know what stuff remains in the ductwork from the previous owners... stuff that depends entirely on what their hygiene, housecleaning and smoking habits were (not to mention how they took care of their pets). In most cases it’s probably better that you don’t know.

You can be certain that if your furnace ductwork isn’t clean, you’re breathing air that passes through the accumulated dust and crud from everyone (and everything) that has ever lived there. I hope this unpleasant picture doesn’t make you swear-off breathing completely -- remember, it’s still safe to exhale. All is not lost: this debris will be totally removed when you have your system cleaned!

Reason # 3 - The “*Mushroom Theory*” and “*Mutant Rabbits*”!

The mushroom theory usually compares the “essentials of mushroom growing” with how politicians treat you. Everyone knows that the best place to grow any type of mold, fungus, or bacteria is in a dark moist environment where it can feed on decaying organic matter. Amazingly, this is also pretty descriptive of the conditions inside ductwork located in a damp basement or crawl-space. In most cases, unclean ductwork is a perfect place to start a little fungus farm.

Not only will dirty ductwork act as a breeding ground for unwanted bacteria and mold, it also acts as a gathering place for everything else that enters a home. Things like pesticides, lead, chemicals and other such unhealthy particles. These unwanted substances enter the house through open windows or are tracked in, and upon entering, bind with household dust. Unfortunately, once in the house and sucked into your ducts, nature has no way of dealing with these potential health time-bombs. In fact, the pollution that gets trapped in your home today is 5 times that of outdoor levels. You need to picture all those soft, fluffy, little “*dust*



bunnies” living in your ducts as having large claws and nasty teeth. Teeth that can really take a bite out of your family’s health if you don’t deal with them.

Can duct cleaning really solve these nasty problems?

You bet it can. Although we won’t promise to find your long lost cat or turtle, we will promise that you will breathe better and healthier by having us clean your ducts properly. You see, when we clean your ducts, we do the job right. We use state-of-the-art equipment specifically designed for home duct cleaning. And, we don’t rush it. We take the time needed -- most jobs will take a day to clean the duct system correctly.

We clean everything in all the round and square pipes of both the hot air supplies and the cold air returns. To do this we use a RotoBrush machine that has rapidly spinning brushes at the end of a powerful vacuum hose to scrub the ducts clean and immediately suck any dust or debris into the waiting vacuum. Plus we have a video camera in the ductwork at the same time to make certain we are able to do the job right. This process gets everything out of your ducts, guaranteeing you a sanitary and clean air passage when we're done.



Also, as filthy, messy, and grimy as this tedious process is, you won’t have to worry about your home getting dirty because of it. When we’re done, you probably wouldn’t even know that we had been there, except that you’ll breathe easier because we pulled out all the junk that you can’t get to on your own. As an extra bonus, duct cleaning has the added benefit of cutting down on the furniture dusting that everyone enjoys so much.

Don’t spend hundreds of dollars annually to clean your carpets & home -- then totally forget all the dirt in your duct system!

It never stops to amaze me how many people will get the carpets cleaned and not even consider their ductwork which is typically much dirtier. Since most duct systems contain enough sheet metal to completely enclose an average bedroom, imagine one whole room in your house totally caked with grime and you’ll have a pretty good idea how much junk your duct system can contain.

Isn’t it time you breathed easier about your home’s air quality?

For all the above benefits, and peace of mind that having your ducts cleaned right will provide you and your family, why not get it done now? We are so sure that you will be satisfied with the work -- and results, that we offer a money-back guarantee based on your satisfaction. Let **Vincent’s Heating and Plumbing** make sure that your homes air system is clean and healthy! Just call **(810) 985-7103** to set up and appointment to get your air ducts cleaned and start breathing cleaner air. - Daniel Squires

P.S. Are you sure your clothes dryer vents are clean? We also offer clothes dryer vent cleaning using our RotoBrush Dryer Vent Cleaning system.

For more information visit us at VHPinc.com/ductcleaning

Invest in Having Your Ductwork Cleaned & Save 10% Off Our Regular Duct Cleaning Package Prices!

Schedule a free quote today. Ask for the “March Duct Cleaning Promotion”

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Word Search Solution – March 2026 – Caribbean Getaways

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

Word Search Replacement Puzzle Solution – February 2026 – Winter Activities

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