

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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Did You Know...

...it's a good idea to turn off the water valve to your automatic humidifier during the summer months? Just don't forget to turn it on when cold weather returns.

OWNER'S CORNER

THROUGH MY EYES

Training is an important component for a company that provides a technical service. This is because technology changes and we need to keep up with it. Also, even when we have the knowledge, a 'refresher' can keep us sharp.

The best time for us to do training is typically in the morning, before we go out on jobs. While a 6:30 am start makes for a long day it is better than going into

the evening and taking away from family time.

Further, it is impossible to coordinate having a meeting right

after work because every tech has a different end of day schedule.

In preparation for the summer cooling season our recent training sessions have been on air conditioning.

While the training is mostly



Coffee and donuts abound at a recent early morning training session.

technical some of the training is in how to communicate this knowledge to be able to answer questions. This is important because there is

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Should I Get A Tankless Water Heater?

This is probably one of the most commonly asked questions, to which I reply with a decisive "it depends".

Tankless water heaters can be great: they combine practically unlimited hot water with the energy savings of not having a storage tank. Except if you have a teenager – then all

bets are off on you actually saving energy. For that matter, all bets are off as to whether you will ever get in the bathroom again to take a shower with virtually unlimited hot water for your teen to use.

On the other hand, with teenagers getting the bathroom back with a standard water heater

can be a lot like a good news/bad news joke:

The good news is you get to take a shower. The bad news is your taking it with cold water.

But beyond these 'critical' decision points, there are also economic factors.

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Water Heaters (Continued from Page 1)

“...should you get a tankless water heater, don't tell your teenager that it won't run out of hot water. They're likely to take it as a personal challenge...”

When I'm asked about tankless water heaters I consider the return on investment. It has to make economic sense as well as have cool features. These are the questions I ask:

1) How many people live in the house and does your current standard water heater meet your needs?

2) Do you have anything that requires a lot of hot water – like a whirlpool tub that is constantly filled and emptied...or teenagers? The investment in a tankless water heater with installation is typically 2 or 3 times that of a conventional water heater. To that you need to factor in the cost of annual maintenance per the manufacturer's instructions. Scale from the water can build up on the interior surfaces and needs to be removed for the unit to function correctly.

So from a return on investment perspective, unless your hot water needs are not currently being met and you are constantly running out of hot water, it may make economic sense to stick with a standard model. This is because the energy savings may not offset the additional investment and maintenance costs.

On the other hand, if you use a lot of hot water and always find that you are running out then it probably will be worth it.

If you are interested in a tankless water heater, here are some of the factors that we need to look at:

Where should the new unit be located? It may need to be installed in a new location for the exhaust vent. If it needs to be moved, the water lines will need to be plumbed to the new location.

Is the current gas line

of sufficient volume or capacity? If not, a new larger gas line may need to be run from where the gas enters your house to the unit.

One final thought: should you get a tankless water heater, don't tell your teenager that it won't run out of hot water. They're likely to take it as a personal challenge to prove that it can.

Note: a tankless heater does not solve the need to clear cold water from your hot water line when you first open the hot valve. It will still take time for your shower to warm up before you can get in. The solution to this is a hot water recirculation system. More on that next month.

-Daniel Squires

THROUGH MY EYES (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

a lot of confusion about air conditioning.

A big example is the main benefit provided by air conditioning. The obvious answer is cooling, but the more important reason is to reduce humidity - which is the biggest factor to achieve comfort. Here's why:

Our bodies are always giving up moisture in the form of perspiration. This is why your hand is hot and sweaty after a few minutes in a latex glove.

The glove acts as a 'vapor barrier' to prevent your body's natural perspiration from evaporating. When this happens you feel uncomfortable. Another thing that prevents your perspiration from evaporating is humidity. This is why reducing humidity is so important to comfort. Now let me tie this in to air

conditioning.

Contrary to how many people understand it an air conditioner does not create 'cold'. Actually, it functions to remove heat from where you don't want it - in your house - to the outside where it doesn't matter. If the temperature drops quickly, the air may feel cool but it still contains humidity. Without getting into all the physics and getting too technical the only way to remove the humidity is to cool the air slowly.

The way we accomplish this - to 'cool the air slowly' - is by making certain that the air conditioner that is installed is correctly 'sized' for the cooling load of the house. If it is oversized - too much cooling capacity - the temperature will cool off fast but leave all the humidity in the air. The air is cool but you

feel 'clammy' and

uncomfortable. This is because the perspiration on your skin can't evaporate because the still humid air already has all the water vapor it can hold.

On the other hand, with a correctly sized air conditioner, the temperature cools slowly and has time to 'squeeze' the water from the air and you feel comfortable. It also saves energy because you will feel more comfortable at 76° F with dry air than you do at 72° F with humid air.

The tendency is to think bigger and faster is better. Now you know why this isn't true with air conditioning. If you have any questions about this or other concerns give us a call.

-Daniel Squires

"...The tendency is to think bigger and faster is better. Now you know why this isn't true with air conditioning."

WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING:

Dear Mr. Squires;

Just a short note to let you know that the two furnace and A/C installers were very professional; their work was meticulous and the clean-up impeccable. Indeed, it was a "work of Art."

J.G, St. Clair

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Memorial Day Word Search

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

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Bravery
Courage
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Hero
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Humor Section



Q: What did the pig say at the beach on a hot summer's day?

A: I'm bacon!

Q: What do you call six weeks of rain in Scotland?

A: Summer!

Q: How do you prevent a Summer cold?

A: Catch it in the Winter!

Q: When do you go at red and stop at green?

A: When you're eating a watermelon.

Q: Why do bananas use sunscreen?

A: Because they peel.

From jokes4us.com