



We Stand On Our Quality and Service

# Brickley Plumbing & Electric, Inc.

Home Comfort News

Spring 2018

## Enjoy A Worry-Free Spring

Ever turn the key in your car and hear the engine thunk, instead of starting smoothly? That's a sound no one ever wants to hear from their car or their air conditioner on a warm or hot day. Over time, air conditioner wires can corrode, belts and moving parts become worn, and leaks can spring up at the most inconvenient times. Just like your car, a cooling system is a complicated set of equipment, and it requires expert care to keep it running at peak performance.

Regular service prevents emergencies and keeps minor problems from escalating into costly repairs. A professional check up for you're A/C unit includes:

- Checking airflow and inspecting electrical connections
- Cleaning the condenser coil and drains, and changing the filters
- Testing refrigerant levels and compressor amperage and
- Evaluating overall unit performance

Now is a good time to let us get your home's system in tip top shape for the warm weather ahead. Get a jump on the cooling season by scheduling a spring tune up with us now so you can enjoy a carefree and cool season ahead.

## Common Home Inspection Problems

When performing a home inspection here are some of the most common problems.

**Faulty Wiring**—This includes things like open junction boxes, no wire nuts on wires, no 3-prong outlets and various other safety hazards. Often these result from do-it-yourself electrical projects.

**Ancient HVAC Systems**—Old furnaces may still function okay but pay close attention to potential carbon monoxide hazards, such as a cracked heat exchanger and leaking duct work.

**Leaky Plumbing**—Often homeowners may not even notice that they have a leak. Watch for water stains on the



ceiling or floor or mold or mildew. Damp basements often are caused not by leaks but by clogged or bent gutters that fail to channel water away from the house. Tiny toilet leaks can damage the underlying subfloor.

**Poor Water Pressure**—This is easy to detect and can be caused by either a non existent or bad pressure reducing valve. If your pipes in the house are old galvanized pipes then these will need to be replaced.

**Foundation Flaws**—These are often indicated by sloping floors and sticky doors and windows and can end up costing the home owner thousands of dollars to repair.

## Painting Straight Edges

Step 1. Take a pencil and draw a line into the edge between the wall and the ceiling.

Step 2. Drag the pencil along the edge to create a firm line. This creates a visual separation between the wall and the ceiling that is easier for your eye to follow.

Step 3. Paint up to the line with a your wall color. You'll be amazed at how easily you hand follows the dark line and makes a nice, straight edge!

Like any painting technique, try this out in a small area first and then expand to the rest of the room.

## Show Your Bathroom Some Love

**Change Your Bathroom Faucet** – One of the easiest bathroom updates that you can make is swapping out your old bathroom faucet for a new fixture. This is a simple and affordable way to change the look and feel of your bathroom.

**Update Your Shower Head** – New shower heads come with a variety of features that can turn any shower into a spa. Updating your shower head can add comfort and convenience to your shower.

**Add a Mirror** – Mirrors can make a small bathroom look bigger, and brighten up your space. If you're struggling with storage, find a mirror with storage so that you can keep your bathroom neat.





Is your home's cooling system performing much less efficiently than it used to. It may be time to consider a new system.

## Get To Know MERV

When shopping for an air filter, not only are the dimensions an important factor but also the MERV rating. MERV stands for Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value and is used to identify filtering efficiency. The higher the rating, the more efficient the filter is in trapping more and smaller particles.



How often you change your filter is a big efficiency factor. Interestingly, filters become more efficient at collecting particles as they start to load up with dust and lint, these particles actually increase the filter's ability to hold onto smaller particles. However, the more it loads up, the harder your system has to work, causing stress on the blower motor and compressor.

That's where we come in. We can determine the right filter for your system and recommend how often it should be changed. But remember, seasonal maintenance is the best prevention.

## Out With the Cold and In With the New Electrical Work

Speak "spring cleaning" and your mind will immediately jump to dusting the cabinets, cleaning the carpets, and boxing up the wool sweaters. For us the term means something entirely different. It means that it's time to check your home for electrical work that either needs to be maintained or repair.

**Replace out dated bulbs.** A few bulbs may have blown out this winter, and now is the perfect time to have them replaced. Before you invite guests over for a spring cookout, ensure that every bulb has been updated and replaced with an energy saving option. Also don't forget to check those flood lights on the outside of your house as well as the ones in the garage.

**Update Your Lighting.** Is your bathroom or bedroom too dim? Adding new light fixtures can completely change the appearance of your them. If you're unhappy with the lighting with any room in your house, update it! Recessed lighting can change the look, feel, and mood of the entire room. And there are several lighting options which you can choose incandescent to LED. Not only is recessed lighting an attractive addition to your home, it will save you money by conserving light energy.

**Landscape Lighting.** When the temperature is starting to rise you'll want to spend more time outdoors with family and friends. Illuminate your landscape, protect your property, and show off your home with outdoor lighting designed specifically for you.

No matter the job, big or small, we will be happy to discuss your project and answer any questions or concerns you may have and don't forget to ask about our Electrical Maintenance Package.

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