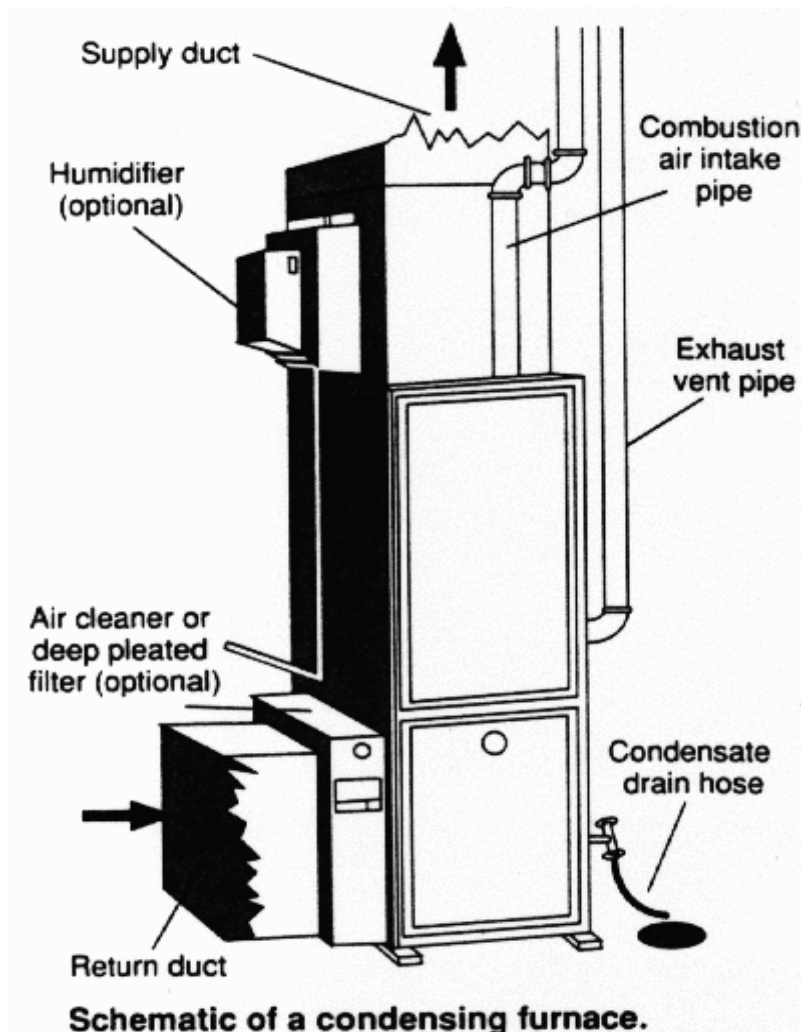


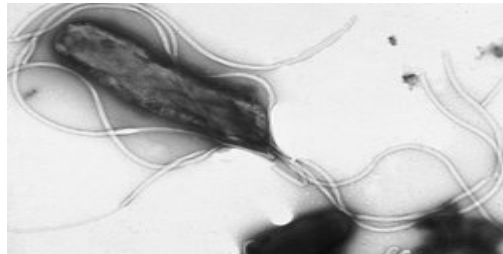
Preparing Your Home for Winter Heating (Furnace) Season

With heating season approaching it's always good to change the air filters and have the furnace cleaned. It's also time to think about your home's health. An unhealthy home can make you sick, and with windows and doors closed all winter it's a good idea to consider adding an air duct mount germicidal protection system. These air purifiers sterilize air and destroy bacteria, viruses, and mold. Very popular with allergy sufferers they are also a great addition to any home for health reasons. UV is known to destroy many airborne pathogens. Those with allergies or asthma should consider germicidal air purifier protection. Newer homes are built air tight for increased efficiency, but that means the home cannot breathe and air becomes stagnant. If you have a new home you need a UV air purifier, and duct mounted units clean the air in the entire house, not just a room.



There are various pollutants and toxins in our daily environment. Most of us know that outdoor air pollutants such as ozone, smog or car exhaust are toxic, but many of us do not realize how dangerous the air inside our home can be to our health. The EPA states that the air even in the largest and most industrialized cities is less toxic than air found in typical homes. Many people do not know that indoor air pollution can be two to five times higher than outdoor air pollution and can sometimes be 100 times higher.

Various micro-organisms such as bacteria, viruses, mold, and fungi often become airborne and this is a common cause of illness and allergies. With the threat of biological warfare, the eradication of airborne pathogens becomes even more important.



Ultraviolet germicidal lamps (UV Bulbs / Probes) inside of the air ducts provide a much more powerful, concentrated effect of ultraviolet energy than can be found naturally. Such lamps sanitize air that is passed directly in their path & destroy pathogens that come

in contact with the UV rays. Musty, moldy type odors can be eradicated, along with tuberculosis, cold and flu viruses, and other airborne diseases. These air purification systems can be particularly beneficial to those of us who are suffering from allergies (common allergens are molds, mildew, and fungi). These microbes can be destroyed with UV lights, improving breathing conditions which may greatly benefit your health.

A popular and low cost source for furnace mounted air duct UV germicidal protection air purifiers is CaluTech at www.calutech.com - Chosen by the United Nations, Military, and even NASA employees to sterilize the air. These U.S. made super high output furnace air duct UV lights can do a lot for indoor air in a very short amount of time.

Furnaces that aren't cleaned properly, or poorly maintained, are known to contribute to carbon monoxide poisoning. Low levels of carbon monoxide may be present in your home right now. These low levels don't really affect adults much; many times you'll never notice any issues, but... Children and animals can be greatly affected. If you notice your child is dizzy or having frequent headaches seek medical attention and get your heating & ventilation system checked out by a professional to eliminate the possibility of low level carbon monoxide poisoning in your home. Don't use a handyman; use a qualified professional to have your heating & ventilation system checked. There are many dangers that can be prevented by having your HVAC system checked and cleaned annually. If you don't you're putting your home's occupants at risk, including yourself.



If your home also has one or more fireplaces make sure you make a call to your local chimney sweep too. Creosote ash is a great fire hazard, and chimneys are lined with it once they've been used enough. Get it cleaned, have the 'draft' checked to make sure air is pulling up through the chimney and not coming down into the home (you can check this yourself with a match. Just light it and blow it out. Keep it right at the fireplace door and watch the smoke. It should pull into the chimney naturally without any help. If it doesn't, or blows downward, you've got a downdraft.

Don't use the fireplace until this is corrected). Have the damper checked too. If it's broke the lowest cost solution is the roof-top damper which your local chimney sweep can install in about an hour. Another suggestion is a chimney cap. These keep out raccoons and birds (and shield from snow/rain/sleet). Don't get the push-in kind; get one that has set-screws to hold it in place. High winds are known to pull out the push-in types.

There are a lot of other preparations that should be made besides what we've recommended here, but the recommendations we've listed in this article are a good place to start, and they are tasks that should not be ignored.

For additional alternatives & tips related to winter preparation we recommend:

[United States Government \(USA.GOV\)](http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Winter.shtml)
<http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Winter.shtml>

[West Virginia University](http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/ageng/resource/prepwin.htm)
<http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/ageng/resource/prepwin.htm>

[Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/winter/index.shtm)
<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/winter/index.shtm>

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/guide.asp)
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/guide.asp>

[MSN Real Estate](http://realestate.msn.com/Improve/Article2.aspx?cp-documentid=1061006)
<http://realestate.msn.com/Improve/Article2.aspx?cp-documentid=1061006>