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We've done it again.

We've been voted "Best of the Best" in the Electrician category again by our customers in the Courier News survey. It's nice to be appreciated. Thank you for noticing and voting. And thank you also for all the on-line reviews as well.

Got a question? Give a call [908-766-1010](tel:908-766-1010) or [Click to email us](#)



A/C for summer These troubleshooting tips are in our website's Helpful Hints- air conditioning section. You can scan this simplified checklist. (Details on our web site. [Click here!](#).)

If your central a/c is not working:

Key question: Is there any air coming out of the vent?

If not, this is usually an electrical problem, not an a/c unit problem. (Electrical problems usually cost less than a/c unit problems.) Check the panel circuit breaker and the safety/shut-off switches on the furnace/air-handler and by the stairs. No luck? Call us.

If there is air coming out, check the big fan on the outside a/c unit.

* If it's turning, you have an a/c compressor problem (it's what makes

Saving for a rainy day?

We have a simple chart of options for keeping your home dry.

The recent storms and flooding problems have affected everyone. At a minimum, you may worry about flooding in your house, or the worst case, you've already had flooding. Either way, there are a number of things you should consider. And remember, water problems can come from outside – rain storms – or from inside – a leaking water heater or air conditioning condensate pump. Depending on your situation, there are steps you can take. We've added a chart in the Helpful Hints portion of our web site to help you. From a \$30 water sensor/alert to \$10,000 for an automatic stand-by generator, the chart not only shows what benefits you get, but also what you don't get. Check it out [Click here!](#)

And don't forget to test what you already have in place. A sump pump should be on its own circuit and for dependability, it should not be a GFCI - outlet (with the Test/Reset buttons). Test the pump by raising the float or by adding water.

Leaking condensation can cause water damage in your home. We have 2 solutions.

==> Do you have a condensate pump for your central a/c unit in your basement? A new design stops your a/c unit if the pump stops working. This is to prevent water damage to your basement.

==> Does your home have a heating/cooling system in your attic? If so, you probably need a new item that's available to prevent water damage to your house. Since a/c units normally create condensation, there's a drain line, and backup catch basin tray to manage it. But if the drain clogs or the system starts leaking into the catch basin, this new security switch shuts off the a/c unit so you can address the problem before it risks flooding your home's sheetrock and wood below. More info, [Click here.](#)

Call us for details and pricing.

Smoke Detector Safety (Part deux)

You have some valuable lives to protect.

We all probably know that smoke detectors have a battery for when the power is out. It's nice to know that you have working smoke detectors when you're likely to have a few candles going.

And most people know that the batteries should be replaced regularly. But do we all do it? (Typically, the detectors chirp every minute if the

things cold).

* If it is not turning, call us. By the way, if you need the name of a good a/c contractor, ask us. We know several.

Other ways to keep your cool: **Ceiling fans and roof fans**

They're very effective at keeping you cool with lower costs. Roof fans help keep the entire top floor cool. If you need one, we need to schedule the work for early morning since the attic gets so hot so quickly. [Click here](#) for more info.

We help.

Sometimes, it's the little things that people notice, like when we fix a loose door knob or banister as we walk by. Sometimes, it's giving advice or referrals based on what we've seen during our travels. Whatever it is, we believe in sharing what we know to help make living easier.

Inside A-1

Summer heat can make people anxious if your a/c is not working, or you have a power problem. Contractors are sometimes overwhelmed with calls. That's why we provide an a/c check list in the Helpful Hints section of our web site. You may be able to fix a problem yourself, or at least you'll avoid waiting for the wrong service people to come and tell you that you need to call someone else.

The heat also puts a constraint on schedules since sometimes the work has to be done in the morning hours if we need to go into the attic. Those morning appointments are usually the first to fill up.

And try to keep your standards for service high, even if you have to wait. If you need a/c compressor repair (not our field), you want good service not just the first service. (We also have referrals if you need a contractor.)

Coming Soon: We'll be offering a free whole house surge suppressor with a 200 amp service upgrade.

battery is low.) Homes built before 1989 usually have battery-only units. These batteries should be replaced twice a year. Most people do it when they change the clocks in spring and fall.

Newer homes have 120 volt interconnected smoke detectors, also with a battery back-up. (The interconnected feature may not work while on battery, it varies.) These batteries should be replaced every year. If you pick the same day each year, you're more likely to remember. Is January 1 a good day to pick?

On older designs, you have to take down the detector (twist counterclockwise) to change the battery from the back. Newer units have the battery accessible from the front. The newest units have a life-time battery. But how long is that lifetime? 10 years. Why 10 years? Read the next important section.

Here's a little known important piece of information. Smoke detector manufacturers and the National Fire Protection Agency specify that all detectors should be replaced every 10 years (or sooner if they do not respond properly). Why? Because studies have shown that there is a 30% failure rate after 10 years, and 50 % failure after 15 years. It's a small price to pay for safety. More info in our web site's Helpful Hints smoke detector section. [Click here!](#)

Win-Win-Win

Sharing = Saving \$25 + \$25 = Happiness

As an added value for customers, and in appreciation of referrals you make, we are inaugurating a new idea.

Refer a friend, neighbor or family member, or all of them. They receive \$25 off their first service call, and you receive \$25 off your next call.

By telling us who referred them with this offer, we can apply a \$25 credit on their bill, and we'll send you a thank you note and credit your account \$25 which will automatically be applied on your next service call.

We call that a Win - Win - Win

Offer expires September 30, 2011, but your credit is good until September 30, 2013.

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