

# ClimateSmith's **HOME**sense

*Smart & simple ways to enrich your home living.*

— IT'S ABOUT TIME! —

## How Low Can Your Energy Bill Go?

**H**ow energy costs are calculated may be a mystery for most homeowners, but finding ways to keep these costs lower is pretty easy to figure out. It begins with a few simple steps and extends to a few choice improvements.

### Practice Good Habits.

Your heating and cooling equipment uses the most energy, and your thermostat is the key to that usage. Set it to as low of a level as you can while still maintaining comfort. Then take a look at other energy users. For example, turn off lights when you leave the room and switch off electronics and appliances you're not using.

**Seal Your Home.** You're investing your energy dollars to keep your home comfortable, so don't let that warmth sneak through cracks and leaks in your windows and doors. Sealing and installing adequate insulation help prevent the escape of your warm air.



**Maintain Your Systems.** Regular tune-ups by a professional will help ensure that your heating system is running at peak efficiency while also helping you avoid untimely breakdowns. Call us to schedule yours if you haven't already.

**Improve Technology.** Scientists and engineers keep finding ways to improve system efficiency and operation as they continue to introduce new equipment.

Smart technology, such as the kind you see in new thermostats, allows you to use WiFi connections in order to set and monitor your home's temperature settings wherever you are. Could a smart thermostat help you through the hustle and bustle of your busy life? If yes, let us know. Also, newer furnace models are super energy efficient. And when it comes time to be replaced, we'll be more than happy to help you find the right size, model and efficiency rating.

## MY WORD

BY JAMES SMITH



Hello Friends,  
  
Winter weather

often brings people together, especially when we gather with family and friends for warm occasions and fun times. Because of the kind of business we're in, the cold temperatures also keep us pretty closely connected to our customers, particularly when we send our team out to your home to take care of sudden and inconvenient comfort problems.

*...continued on page 4*



Your Quick Call Comfort Hotline:

**770-475-9555**

 [www.climatesmith.com](http://www.climatesmith.com)

Visit [www.climatesmith.com](http://www.climatesmith.com) for more great ideas to keep your home running smoothly.  
And if you need any help, give us a call.



## Natural Ways to Stay Healthy This Winter

— HOT NEWS NOW —

### When Should You Clean Your Ducts?

**A**re the ducts that send warm (or cool) air into your home causing breathing problems for your family? Interest in air duct cleaning has grown in recent years, particularly as homeowners become more concerned about their indoor air quality or look for better ways to improve energy use.

According to the EPA, there are several important health reasons you should consider having your ducts cleaned:

- Is substantial mold growth visible inside the ducts or other components of your heating and cooling system? If mold is present, however, duct cleaning is not the only step to take. You'd also want to correct whatever conditions are causing the growth of the

mold. Also, if air duct insulation gets wet or moldy, you'll need to have it removed and replaced instead of cleaned.

- Are your ducts clogged with excessive amounts of dust and debris and other particles, and are these substances being released into the home from your supply registers? This affects your indoor air quality as poor-quality air continues to be pumped back into your home.
- Are your ducts infested with rodents or insects or other unwelcome critters? Yes, that's gross – but that's why you'd want the ducts cleaned.

Duct cleaning is an as-needed service that supports routine maintenance on your system. Fuel-burning furnaces should be serviced and inspected annually to protect against carbon monoxide poisoning and to improve efficiency. So, don't skip your tune-up. Give us a call.

**T**he cold and flu season can bring unwelcome illness into your household, but you can take some healthy steps ahead of time to be prepared. Along with getting a flu shot, practicing good habits can lower your risk as sickness spreads through your home or workplace.

**Wash your hands.** This is your best defense against the spread of viruses and bacteria. Before eating or after going to



### The Door to More Comfort and Savings...

...is your phone! Call to schedule your seasonal maintenance and tune-up. Our techs may spot small repairs before they turn into system failures. They also know how to adjust your system for maximum energy savings.

Just call **ClimateSmith** at **770-475-9555** today to schedule an 'open door' to more savings! Plus, save \$25 off your tune-up before **February 28, 2018**.

— TAKE THAT! (AND THIS TOO!) —

### Chalk it up to... Chalk

**C**halk has some beneficial secrets up its sleeves you may not know about. In fact, you can even use chalk to clean a ring around the collar. Just rub the stain with chalk, which will

absorb the oil holding in the dirt. Let it sit for 10 minutes, then simply wash as you normally would.

If you have an ant invasion, draw a chalk line at the entry point, and the ants won't cross due to the powder's sensory effect on their antennae.

## Loaded Baked Potato Soup

**H**ow about a cozy evening at home with a warm bowl of baked potato soup?



Start by peeling and cubing three Russet potatoes and thinly slicing two green onions. Also, cook four slices of bacon until brown and crispy, then dice the prepared bacon. Set those ingredients

and continue to whisk for a couple of more minutes until slightly thickened. Stir in the potatoes and green onions. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for an

aside as you melt 5 tablespoons of unsalted butter in a large pot over medium heat.

**Get \$25 Off the Best Service We Can Offer.**

For your next heating and cooling system repair, we'd like to make things easier on your wallet. Clip this coupon for a **\$25 savings** on your repair bill. Then call us, and we'll give you our best service. Just call **ClimateSmith** at **770-475-9555**.

additional 15 to 20 minutes.

When the potatoes are tender, gently stir in 1 cup of shredded cheese, the diced bacon, a ½ cup of sour cream and salt and pepper for added taste.

the bathroom, take about 30 seconds to work up a good lather and wash your hands thoroughly, including your fingernails.

**Keep hand sanitizer nearby.** You'll need this when you're in a public place and can't get to a restroom. Perhaps you've shaken hands with a group of people or used public items (such as common pens and shopping carts).

**Stay hydrated.** Keep drinking plenty of water. Dehydration can leave you vulnerable to illness.

**Eat a healthy diet.** A balanced diet that includes fruits and vegetables is a good idea year-round, but especially when you're exposed to illnesses. Keep sugar to a minimum; it causes your immune system to work harder. Opt for complex carbs instead.

**Exercise regularly.** Take time to move around. Even a short walk has important health benefits.

**Get a good night's sleep.** A lack of sleep can make you prone to infection.

Easily repair nicks and scrapes on your wall by drawing over the problems with chalk that matches your paint color. The same for water or scuff marks on the ceiling. Just be sure to use a firm and balanced stepladder.

## Enjoying Outdoor Fun - Inside



**J**ust because the calendar says it's wintertime doesn't mean you can't enjoy a little summer fun with the family. Just bring the

summer fun indoors. For example, why not have an inside campout?

Half the fun is getting ready for the big night. Pull back the couch and set aside the coffee table, and spread out sleeping bags in your family room or even put up a tent. Maybe build a "pretend" campfire

with a battery-operated candle and brown construction paper rolled up for the logs. And when everybody's in comfy clothes, settle in for a night of making burgers, hot dogs, popcorn, s'mores and other delicious summertime treats.

Munch down as you watch a favorite movie, tell special family stories or play old-fashioned board games – or modern board games. Plus, have flashlights on hand for shadow puppets and then later bedtime reading.

When the night begins to wind down, let the kids fall asleep right where they are. And then the next morning, serve breakfast at your makeshift campsite.

No homeowner likes an ill-timed repair, but you can count on us to be there when you need us. Whatever is happening with the weather, we're always here to help your family stay warm and toasty. And just as importantly, making sure your system is running safely and efficiently is our absolute top priority.

So, give us a call when you've got a problem, concern or even question, and we'll help any way we can. In the meantime, enjoy your winter!

Sincerely,



James Smith

### Fitting Advice for Filling Up

If you're trying to fill a container with water, but it just won't fit under your sink's faucet, try using a clean dust pan as a canal. Simply place a dust pan with a cupped handle under the faucet and the container at the end of the handle. Then just let the water flow from the dust pan to the container. That's it!



Smart & simple ways to enrich your home living.



5950 Shiloh Road East, Suite Q  
Alpharetta, GA 30005  
GA Reg# CR109819

## How *Smart* Is Your Thermostat?

**Smartphone technology** has changed home comfort – because now you can change the temperature setting for your home wherever you are.

When you upgrade to a Smart thermostat that's Wi-Fi enabled, you can check in with your heating and cooling system through a smartphone, tablet or computer browser anywhere you go. With this ultimate comfort convenience, you can change

temperature settings while you're at work, when family's arriving home, when you're returning from vacation or from any room in the house.

What's more, you can receive reminders to change filters, get alerts about home temperatures and check weather conditions.

Just call **ClimateSmith** at **770-475-9555** by **February 28, 2018** and save 10% off the installation.

## FAST FIX

### Coffee Filter Trick for Potted Plants

A small extra step will help keep dirt from spilling out of the drainage hole of your potted plant. Before adding the potting soil to your container, just place a single coffee filter over the inside bottom. This will allow water to drain through, but keep dirt inside. It's a simple and low-cost technique for maintaining your potted plants' health and elegance. Happy planting!