



City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

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EnergyWise Tip ~ HVAC Filters

The end of the year is a busy time. In addition to several holidays squeezed into the final sixty days, we have winter to worry about. Of course, I always forget to prepare the snow blower for its first use of the season until at least three inches have fallen and the thermometer is way south of 32 degrees Fahrenheit. But when this season rolls around, I always remember to check and change the furnace filter in my heating and cooling (HVAC) system. Those who forget both the filter and the snow blower may find the snow-packed driveway is the least of their problems.

How important could a filter be? Consider the following potential impacts:

Inefficient heating and cooling

The whole reason you have an HVAC system is to keep comfortable inside. Dirty filters reduce airflow and the system's ability to condition the air in your home. According to the Department of Energy, a furnace or air conditioner with a clogged filter can use 15 percent more energy than one operating with a clean one.

Higher cost of utility bills

Every year, energy efficiency professionals like me start hearing concerns about the high cost of utilities after homeowners and renters receive their January or December bills. Incidentally, these two months have the highest heating requirements respectively and on a historical average. An inefficient HVAC system only makes these bills higher.

Uneven temperatures inside

Most duct systems are designed with the assumption that, with a clean filter, the furnace or air handler will move an adequate volume of air to keep temperatures balanced throughout your home. Diminished air flows due to a dirty filter often result in a room or rooms not receiving the same

amount of conditioned air as others.

Short cycling or equipment failure

Reduced air flow due to a dirty filter can cause your heat exchanger to overheat and shut off before your thermostat's setpoint is reached. In a relatively short period of time, it will continue to cycle on and off. If this happens too often, the electronic "limit switch" safeguard can fail, and the furnace won't fire up at all. Now, you'll have a bill from a HVAC technician for parts and labor. Of course, Murphy's Law states this will occur on the coldest day of the year outside of normal business hours to optimize the technician's fees.

A similar problem can occur in the middle of summer. A clogged filter can cause the evaporator coil to freeze up because not enough air is moving through it to remove the condensation produced during the cooling process. If I had to predict, this will inevitably occur to filter abusers over the Fourth of July weekend in order to once again, optimize the HVAC technician's fees.

(By the way, the dirt that gets past a filter can also make its way into the fan motor and other parts, causing damage to those components.)

Puts the pressure on your lungs

Relying on your lungs to filter out all the contaminants that can potentially be in indoor air could mean you find yourself sick or feeling ill more often. Those contaminants might include: dust, mites, spores, mold, ash, pollen, pet dander, bug parts, hair, lint, tobacco smoke, food particles, pesticides, paint vapors or fumes from cleaning products. A clean filter removes portions of most of these contaminants to create a healthier home.

Is once a year often enough to change your filter? No, probably not. However, if you're not currently changing your filter at all, this is a start. Some heating and cooling experts recommend changing your filter every month. While this practice may ensure you never operate your system with a dirty filter, you may be throwing a good filter away prematurely. If you're serious about addressing the issues discussed above, I recommend checking filters monthly for one year until you understand how often and after how much use changes are needed. Some filters may require replacement each month, but if your system runs very little, such as during mild months, you may get additional use from the same filter. Also note that some filters are designed to last multiple months. Only through observation and following manufacturers' recommendations can you best gauge optimal replacement frequency.

Not sure which filter to select? Visit with your HVAC technician or retail expert to assure your selection provides the best filtration possible without negatively impacting your system's performance.

Your local utility wants to help you make the most of the energy they provide you. That includes helping you keep your home's heating and cooling systems running efficiently. For assistance on making your home EnergyWiseSM, contact your local utility at 402 375-2866.

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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

December 3rd
December 17th

REMINDER TO PET OWNERS

**Remember to pick up
your dog's waste —
don't leave it in parks
where kids play or
other private and
public areas!!**

**It's not only the right
thing to do—it's the
law!!**



**City Offices will close
Tuesday, December
24th at 11:30 a.m. and
be closed all day
Wednesday, Decem-
ber 25th for the Holi-
days!**



Department News ~

Wayne Public Library ~

Santa wants to meet you at the Wayne Public Library on Tuesday, December 3rd between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. - Santa will be at the Library to hear your Christmas wishes! Meanwhile, across the hall we, will have coloring, crafts, stories and treats to enjoy. Hope to see you all for a festive and jolly evening to kick off your Holidays!

Relax at **Adult Coloring Night on Tuesday, December 10th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.** at the Library. All color pages, crayons, markers and pens, plus a light snack, will be available at this FREE event sponsored by Pac-N-Save. Coloring Nights are open to men and women 18 and older.

Need something to do after school? Check out **After School Coloring on Friday, December 13th from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.** to unwind after a busy school week. Adults will be on hand for conversation, and color pages, crayons, markers and pens, plus a light snack, will be provided.

The Needle Night group continues to meet. This is a very informal group and isn't limited to knitting. "We welcome anyone who crochets, weaves, etc. and set aside every **Thursday from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** for needlework with all who shows up."

Join us for **Craft Day: Ugly Christmas Sweater Decorating on Saturday, December 14th.** Bring in your own sweater (or any piece of clothing you want to decorate) and we will provide the decorating materials! FREE and open to all ages (hot glue guns will be used, so keep this in mind with young children.) **Call the Wayne Public Library for more info. The event will run from 1:00-3:00 p.m. or until supplies run out.**

Join us for an afternoon of fun at **Movie Day on December 20th at 2:15 p.m.** After a teen discovers a yeti on the roof of her apartment, she

and her two friends begin a journey to get him back home to his family. During their journey, they have to thwart other parties from trying to abduct the yeti for their own! This film is animated and PG.

12 Days of Holiday Break Fun!

December 21st & 22nd – Lego Days -Build your Lego creations with our lego collection at the Library, and we will put them on display for the remainder of the month. Open on both dates during regular library hours.

December 23rd – Book Crafting Day and Beginning of Book Creator Contest -Build your own paper storybook! Supplies to create your own mini book will be available. This event is open to all ages from 1:00-3:00 p.m. After creating your book, submit your work to our Book Creator's Contest. Book entries will be due for judging by January 3rd.

December 24th – Cookies and Cider all day!

December 27th – Scavenger Hunt Day

December 28th & 29th – Puzzle and Game Days: Tons of puzzles and games to choose from all day!

December 30th – Buttons and Bookmarks Day: Create your own buttons and bookmarks with us from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The first creation is free, additional creations cost \$.25 after. Call the Wayne Public Library for more info.

December 31st – Coloring Day: Coloring supplies available all day.

January 2nd – Minute to Win It! Test your skills against other players in our

Minute to Win It games from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

January 3rd – Kids Escape Room - Can you solve the escape room and make it out of the Library? Call the Wayne Public Library to reserve your spot at Kids Escape Room! Times available will be: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Book Creator Contest entries due.

January 4th – Adult Escape Room— Can you solve the escape room and make it out of the Library? Call the Wayne Public Library to reserve your spot at Adult Escape Room! Times available will be: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

There is no Book Club meeting this month. Book Club meetings will resume in January!

The Wayne Public Library will close at 4:00 p.m. on December 24th and December 31st. We will be closed on December 25th, 26th, and January 1st for the Holidays.

WISE WORDS

"Learn from the mistakes of others. You can never live long enough to make them all yourself."

~Groucho Marx

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Monday & Friday

9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Tuesday

11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Saturday

8:00 am.—Noon

Or by appointment
Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday

Green Notes ~



Go green this holiday season with easy tips to save money and reduce waste.

1. Give an experience. Time together can be more valuable than an item that's rarely used. Make coupons for doing special things together, like taking a walk, playing a game, or cooking a meal. Try saving time for someone by offering to do chores or other time-consuming tasks.

2. Buy battery-free gifts. Batteries are expensive and difficult to recycle so keep your gift giving simple and make it battery-free. Or give rechargeable batteries and a charger if you must.

3. Select gifts that don't require much packaging. Gift certificates, tickets to a show, potted plants or homemade treats work great. Reuse gift bags, ribbons, or a bow if you do need to wrap, or use cloth like a scarf or dish towel to wrap a gift.

4. Re-gift. Have something you no longer want, like a good book you've read, or a nice shirt you don't wear? Don't be shy about re-gifting. You'll extend the life of the item and pass it on to someone who will

appreciate it.

Shop local. Our community has wonderful stores that offer creative gifts and services, along with opportunities at local craft and book fairs to buy something special. Shop in town before spending dollars outside of our community and on extra fuel to drive there and back, saving the gift of extra time for yourself.

Recycle Strings of Lights. Bring your old strings of holiday lights for recycling to the Wayne Recycling & Trash Center and place in the bins marked for lights. These are recycled for the copper wire inside. When replacing, consider LED lights, which last longer, use less energy, and save money. Now that's a bright idea!

Use the City's Brush Pile. At the end of the holiday season, dispose of your Christmas tree (without any decorations or tinsel) and greenery at the City's brush pile at 1810 Industrial Road

For more tips on the Green Path to the Good Life, like the Wayne Green Team on Facebook or visit www.cityofwayne.org/greenteam.



The Fair Housing Act protects people from discrimination when they are renting, buying, or securing financing for any housing. The prohibitions specifically cover discrimination because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability and the presence of children.

If you believe you may be a victim of housing discrimination, contact HUD 1-800-669-9777 or your local Fair Housing representative:

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YOUR CHOICE. YOUR RIGHT. YOUR HOME.

