



Maximum Comfort News

News & Information For The Customers Of Rubino Service Company, Spring 2010

Inside...

Simple
Bruschetta
Appetizers

Save with
Solar Powered
Outdoor
Lighting

The Troubling
10: Most
Common A/C
Problems

Have you had
your audit yet?

The CORNER

Maybe you have had it with that drippy faucet or that slow running drain or that balky toilet. You may have a more urgent issue like your dishwasher has flooded the kitchen or there is water coming down from the upstairs bathroom or your water heater has flooded your basement.

Your plumbing is not often exciting. It will go on for years, faithfully filling, flowing and flushing. As a pipe leaks water through your ceiling however your excitement for the plumbing grows. You will need to find a plumber ASAP.

Whether your plumbing need is routine or an emergency, you need to find a good plumber, one that you can trust will do the work right, is reasonably priced and be there when you need them. Well I recognized this as a need for my customers which is why I have expanded my business to meet this need.

Rubino Service Company has hired a Master Plumber, John Morrison and opened Rubino Plumbing Services. Over the last few months, plumbing has started growing as word spread that we are now able to offer this service. So next time you have to think about plumbing, remember that Rubino Service Company can now offer you these services. You can have peace of mind knowing that the same reliable name and great customer service that you have used for your heating and air conditioning you can now use for your plumbing needs.



Angela Hines

Angela Hines

\$25 Off Any Plumbing Repair

Call today for fast, professional service on any plumbing repair in your home or at your business.

Not valid with other offers. Not valid towards service call charge. Expires 6/30/10.

856-795-3226

Simple Bruschetta Appetizers

Small, open-faced sandwiches, Bruschetta make perfect appetizers. They are delicious and quick and easy to make. (this recipe makes about 24 Bruschetta)

Ingredients

- Long loaf crusty bread
- 3 medium ripe roma tomatoes
- 3 large fresh mozzarella balls
- 24 fresh basil leaves
- Coarse salt
- Extra virgin olive oil

Procedure

1. Cut bread into ½" (4cm) slices on the diagonal
2. Lightly toast bread in the oven on both sides
3. Cut tomatoes into ¼" (.75cm) slices and place one on each slice of bread.

4. Cut mozzarella balls into ¼" (.75cm) slices and place on top of tomato.

5. Chop basil into thin strips and sprinkle on top

6. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with salt.



Optional

- Re-toast with toppings on will make the mozzarella melt
- Rub roasted garlic cloves on the toasted bread slices

WHAT IS ICE DAMMING?

With all the snow this winter you may have noticed on your home ice damming or large icicles hanging from your roof. Ice dams form when heavy snow melts during the day, flows down to the cold overhang and freezes at night. After several melting-freezing cycles, the ice dams or icicles will get larger. Water can't flow uphill so when ice dams get large enough water can enter the attic and damage insulation, ceilings, walls and even the building itself.

Ice dam leakage can have several causes:

1. Weather: accumulation of several inches of snow & temperature below freezing for several days.
2. Poor attic ventilation caused by insufficient air flow from soffit vents for example.
3. Heat loss from inside the building due to insufficient insulation.

The best way to avoid leakage caused by ice dams is to prevent them from occurring.

1. Clean leaves, sticks, and debris from gutters and down spouts each Fall. This basic maintenance will allow melting snow to flow into the gutters and down the spouts as intended.

2. Upgrade the attic insulation R-Value. If your home was built before 1978, consider upgrading the attic's insulation to a minimum of R-30 (R-38 in colder climates). This will help keep the house warmer and the attic cooler, thereby reducing the chances of attic heat melting roof snow. Plus, you may enjoy the lower costs of an energy efficient home!

3. Evaluate the attic ventilation system. Good air flow under the eaves and soffits promotes a cool and dry underside of the roof deck, preventing roof snow from melting. A quality ventilation system may also extend the life span of your roof by reducing dry rot and material cupping and curling.

Rubino Service Company can help prevent ice damming by performing a home energy audit on your home to check for proper attic insulation, air sealing and ventilation.

Find Us on
facebook
Keep Up To Date On
Industry News &
Unadvertised Specials



The Troubling 10 The Most Frequently Encountered Spring A/C Problems & How You Can Prevent Them

1. Tripped Breaker

One of the most common causes of no-cool is a tripped breaker. Reset it before calling us. Hopefully, it won't repeat. If it does, call us. Something is causing the breaker to trip. Often, it's something simple, like a bad breaker, loose wire, or a bad capacitor. However, if not addressed, some simple problems could lead to far more expensive repairs.

2. Dirty Filter

If you have a 1" disposable filter, it should be replaced monthly. It's out of sight and out of mind, so it's easy to forget to change it. Yet, every year we go on service calls where the air conditioner isn't cooling and the cause is restricted air flow from an extremely dirty filter. Dirty filters reduce indoor air quality, make the home less comfortable, and can result in frozen indoor coils, eventually leading to serious repairs.

3. Refrigerant Leaks

An air conditioning system is a sealed system. It should never leak refrigerant. When it does, bad things happen. Your air conditioner efficiency falls and electricity use rises. Your air conditioner may not cool. The coil may freeze. The compressor could become damaged. Plus, refrigerants are greenhouse gases. We use a variety of tools to track down refrigerant leaks. Often the problem is as simple as a bad Schrader valve or a weekend connection between a fitting and refrigerant tubing.

4. Switch Turned Off

Some heating and air conditioning systems have a wall switch at the indoor unit for safety and convenience that can be confused with a light switch. If this is accidentally switched off or left off during mild weather, your air conditioner will not start. Always check the condition of this switch before calling us.

5. Thermostat Problems

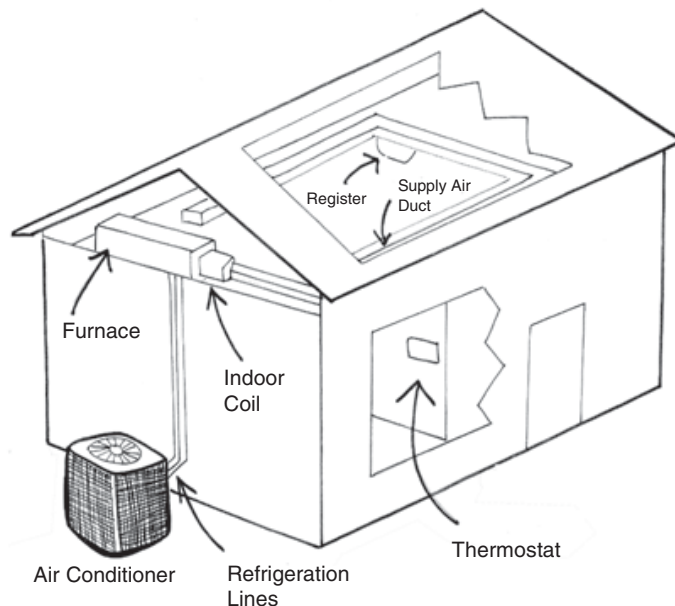
Some thermostats must be switched between heating mode and cooling mode. If the switch is in the wrong position or breaks, your air conditioner won't start. Quality digital thermostats rarely fail. Some of the cheap ones available from the big boxes might. So what goes wrong? The switch might break, a voltage spike might cause a malfunction, and so on.

6. Clogged Drain Line

Air conditioners pull moisture out of humid air while lowering the temperature. The moisture is typically drained out of your home through your plumbing system. A drain pan should be present as a back up with a secondary condensate drain. Algae can grow in these lines, clogging them up. This can lead to water damage in your home. We clear the drain lines as part of our Spring air conditioning tune-up or you can have it done separately, as needed.

7. Contactor

A contactor is an electromechanical switch in your air conditioner. Sometimes the silver coating on a contactor will wear off and the contactor will stick, causing the outside unit to run continuously, which is expensive. Sometimes ants are attracted to the electricity and get squashed between the contactors, blocking them from closing. When this happens, the outside unit won't run. Contactors can also fail electrically. We check these as part of a Spring tune-up, clean the surface of the contactors if needed, and recommend replacement if failure appears imminent.



8. Dirty Evaporator Coil

The evaporator coil is located inside your home. Liquid refrigerant is sprayed into this coil to evaporate and draw heat from the air being blown across the coil. Periodically the coil needs to be cleaned or dust and particle build up will restrict the coil's heat transfer capabilities and reduce system air flow down the duct system. Dirty coils increase operating cost while simultaneously reducing home comfort.

9. Dirty Condenser Coil

The condenser coil is located outside your home. The compressor pulls hot refrigerant gas from the evaporator and pumps it through the outdoor coil where it condenses into a liquid as the condensing unit fan pulls air across the coil. A dirty or restricted coil is inefficient, increasing electricity usage and reducing system cooling capacity. We wash, clean, and if needed, comb the condenser coil as part of the Spring tune-up.

10. Duct Leaks

Your heating and air conditioning system adds and removes heat to the duct system. The duct system is tasked with delivering it to the occupied areas of your home. If the ducts that supply conditioned air to the living space leak and are located outside of the living space, you're essentially paying to heat or cool the outdoors. If the ducts that return conditioned air from the living space leak, you pull in unconditioned, unfiltered air. Duct leakage is one of the leading causes of inefficient air conditioning operation and home comfort problems. Leaks range from duct penetration to split seams to completely disconnected ducts. Repairing individual leaks is not expensive. It's the leaks that are expensive.

News • Specials • More



Have you had your Home Energy Audit Yet?

If you haven't had your home energy audit yet, you should call today to schedule. By having your home audit, you could start saving on your home's energy cost today! Our home audit looks at your air ducts, attic ventilation & insulation, water heater, basement/crawlspace, thermostats, windows, appliances, heating and air conditioning. Reduce your carbon footprint and start saving on your utility bill.

The *New Jersey Home Performance with Energy Star Program*® is offering outstanding incentives for you to start making your home more energy efficient. Don't miss out on this opportunity. The *Home Performance with Energy Star Program* offers 50% back up to \$10,000, up to \$1,000 free air sealing and 0% loan for 10 years for those who qualify. *Restrictions apply. Incentives subject to change without notice.

Don't wait any longer. Have Rubino Service Company conduct the audit on your home today.



New Jersey's *Clean Energy Program*® is brought to you by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program* does not endorse any one particular contractor.



The CORNER

- Q. Why did a fellow rabbit say that the Easter Bunny was self-centered?
A. Because he is eggo-centric.
- Q. Where do Easter Bunnies go for new tails?
A. A re-tail store.
- Q. How do you make a rabbit stew?
A. Make it wait for 3 hours!
- Q. A man wanted an Easter pet for his daughter. He looked at a baby chick and a baby duck. They were both very cute, but he decided to buy the baby chick. Do you know why?
A. The baby chick was a little cheeper!
- Q. When rain falls, does it ever get up again?
A. Yes, in dew time.
- Q. What's worse than raining buckets?
A. Hailing taxis.