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Signs an AC Unit Needs to Be Replaced

Summer is a season of relaxation. Warm air, longer hours of daylight and vacations from school and work make summer a laid back time of year.

Many people enjoy the warmer air of summer, but it's important to have a cool place to retreat once temperatures become particularly warm. That means a well-cooled home with an air conditioning system operating at peak capacity. A new HVAC system can last between 15 and 25 years. Homeowners whose systems are at least a decade and a half old can keep an eve out for the following signs that an HVAC may need to be replaced.

• Higher energy bills: Energy costs can vary widely by location, but homeowners know that their energy bills have been on the rise for years. FirstEnergy estimated that energy costs for New Jersey residents in 2025 could increase by more than 19 percent by the middle of the many Garden State residents begin using their air conditioning units every

to gauge if higher energy bills are a reflection of market price increases or a unit that needs replacement. But higher energy bills could indicate a unit is not working efficiently, which is a telltale sign of an HVAC that may need to be replaced. Compare energy bills from a year ago to current bills, and then factor in the price increase. If energy consumption is on the rise compared to a year ago, that could indicate an HVAC unit is working less efficiently.

- A humid home: Humidity is a part of summer, but it's typically felt outdoors, not inside. A home with a humid interior while the AC is running could indicate a problem with the HVAC unit. According to HVAC.com, a functioning HVAC unit utilizes an evaporator coil to pull excess water vapor from the air in a home and drain it away from the home. If the air inside a home is humid, the unit might be having a year, a point in time when mechanical issue that's preventing this important task from being performed.
- Frequent repairs: A replaced. day. That can make it hard telltale sign a unit needs to

be replaced is the need for frequent repairs. Homeowners who are now on a first-name basis with their HVAC contractor may want to ask that professional if it's time to replace the unit. Money being spent on frequent repairs may be better repurposed toward financing the purchase of a new unit that could last as long as a quarter century.

• Poor air flow: An HVAC unit operating at peak capacity will produce a steady flow of cool air through the vents throughout a home. Poor air flow through those vents means it will take longer than normal to cool a home, and homeowners can put their hands near the vents to see how well or how poorly air is flowing through them. If air is flowing poorly, the unit will have to work harder to cool the home. which will contribute to higher energy bills.

A fully functional air conditioning system is vital in summer. Some telltale signs any homeowner can spot may indicate an existing HVAC unit needs to be

GARAGE SALE

210 River Oaks Dr. • Cold Spring Thursday, June 26th and Friday, June 27th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, June 28th from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Kids and women's clothing, household, kitchen and miscellaneous

_june24pd

GARAGE SALE

325 10th Ave. S. • Cold Spring Wednesday, June 25th from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, June 26th from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday, June 27th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Table, chairs, Pack-n-Play, lots of kids and adult clothing, home decorations, lots of toys and lots of miscellaneous.

__june24pd

GARAGE SALE

John Clark Apts. • Rockville June 26th & 27th from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and June 28th 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Baby and children's items, clothes, toys, homemade puppies and dolls, women's clothes, grill (new), men's miscellaneous, collector records, Correlle dishes, housewares, craft items and books, local lake prints and more.

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When:

Time:

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North Browns Lake 10th Bi-Annual

GARAGE

SALE

Organized by the North Browns Lake Association.

LAKE WIDE RESIDENTS GARAGE SALE!

DIRECTIONS

North Browns Lake

(Raymond Avenue, Browns Lake Road & Drum Flower Road)

June 27 — 28, 2025

8:00AM - 1:00PM

Horoscopes

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Nothing is too much for you to handle right now, Aries. But don't take on even more as a way to prove something to someone. That could be a recipe for trouble.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21 Your physical energy is strong right now, Taurus. This may work to your advantage regarding your relationship. Your desire for love and passion is intense right now, so explore it.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21 Matters of the heart may need a little work right now, Gemini. If things haven't been going too smoothly, you might have to examine the dynamics of the relationship and make changes. CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

You have an incredible passion for life, Cancer. It's attracting friends and family members into your circle. Partner with someone who shares your energy.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23 Leo, if things aren't going

smoothly at work, be careful about blaming yourself. You need to look at the bigger picture and figure out who all the players are in this situation.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, even when others may count vou out, vou can be full of surprises. Do not let a recent success go entirely to your head, however. You still have a lot of work to do.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, even though you may like to plan ahead and take things slowly, sometimes you need to throw caution to the wind. When an opportunity all but falls in your lap, run with it.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22 Scorpio, recent conflicts may ignite some mixed feelings, which could prove confusing. Think about solutions that potentially benefit all around you, including yourself.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

You might not be having the best luck right now, Sagittarius, but things can change quickly. Keep your chin up and your eyes set on your goal. Networking may help you move forward. CAPRICORN - Dec

22/Jan 20

Capricorn, if you have any health questions, make an appointment to talk to someone right away. It is important to stay ahead of things.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb

Something that has been taking up a bulk of your time is finally coming to a close, Aquarius. This will be a big relief and a lot of stress will be lifted in the process

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

People keep coming up to you expecting all of the answers, Pisces. Don't feel pressured to please everyone. Right now you may be content to enjoy some alone

SHOP LOCAL

Gear First-Time Campers Will Want To Take Along To The Campsite

the great outdoors compels millions of people to incorporate nature into their daily routines. Whether it's a morning walk around the neighborhood, an oceanfront weekend spent with toes in the sand or an afternoon lounging on a lake, there's no shortage of ways

to enjoy the great outdoors. Camping is a wildly popular way for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy nature. Spending daylight hours in a wooded area or forest may not be unusual for outdoor enthusiasts, but camping under the stars at night can be intimidating for first-timers accustomed to comfortable, climatecontrolled bedrooms. The right gear can calm any nervousness first-time campers may have, and the following are some items to take along.

• *Tent*: A tent is obviously a must-have when planning to spend the night under the stars. Shelter protects campers from the elements, insects and wildlife, so it's imperative that first-time campers bring along enough tents to accommodate everyone on the trip. Novice campers may be overwhelmed by the assortment of options available when they look to buy a tent, so it's best to visit a local outdoor retailer for advice. Share the specifics of the trip, including how long it will be and

The natural beauty of to be accommodated. Such about anything. A single information will help to determine the best tent for vour trip.

• Sleeping bag, pad and pillow: A sleeping bag is another necessity, but it's also important to bring along a sleeping pad. Temperatures drop at night, so a well-insulated sleeping bag can keep campers warm at night. A multi-season sleeping bag can be an especially useful investment that helps campers prepare for fluctuating temperatures. No matter how comfortable a sleeping bag may seem, the hard ground does not typically increase the chances of a good night's rest. That's why a sleeping pad is vital, particularly for first-time campers unaccustomed to sleeping in anything other than a bed. Round out your sleeping must-haves by bringing along a pillow.

- Chairs: Of course, camping trip comfort isn't all about sleeping. A comfortable and foldable chair for everyone in the party is another essential. Chairs should be sturdy and ideally not too heavy, particularly if the campsite is a
- long walk from the car. • Kitchenware: Cooking is a fun part of camping, especially campers remember to bring along the appropriate kitchenware. A camp stove with two burners can make how many people will need it easy to whip up just

burner stove might suffice for small camping parties, but the double burner stove enables cooking more than one item at once. In addition to a sturdy stove, bring alone some forks, knives and plates.

- Bug spray: Bugs won't get the hint that campers don't want them around the campsite, so don't forget to pack some bug spray to repel these unwanted guests.
- Sunscreen: Even if you're staying in a wooded area or forest with ample shade overhead, you'll want to apply sunscreen to avoid skin damage. Even a mild sunburn can make sleeping in a tent for the first time more difficult, so apply sunscreen early and reapply as directed on the bottle.
- Miscellaneous items: Lighting to augment light coming from a campfire, toiletries to ensure bathroom breaks are as comfortable as possible, garbage bags and containers to secure trash and reduce the risk of attracting wildlife, and a few books or magazines to read while resting at the campsite are some additional items firsttime campers won't want to forget.

Camping is a fun activity that's even more enjoyable when campers remember to pack the right gear.

Enjoy Entertainment Close to Home

aways to big cities or even international destinations to take in the culture, sights and sounds of such locales, but people need not always venture too far from home to enjoy great entertainment and recreation. What's more, many local options are budget-friendly and do not require much travel. That makes it easy to enjoy events during the week and on the weekend.

The following are some recreation and entertainment ideas people can enjoy without skipping town.

• Live music: There are no shortage of live music performances in many cities and towns. Local restaurants or pubs and concert halls feature musicians trying to get their names out and perform. Even established musical stars may make local appearances from time to time. Musical performances also can be enjoyed at school functions and festivals, and some towns may have resident buskers performing right in the cen-

ter of town. • Theater productions: Check the calendar of local theater troupes and you're bound to find two or more productions a year. Community colleges also are great spots to take in theatrical performances. Some theaters also serve as testing grounds for new shows before they move on to bigger theaters and even Broadway. The benefit of these local productions is that ticktend to be more

It may be fun to plan get- reasonably priced, and the shows are just as entertaining as some bigger produc-

> · Restaurants and dining: A night out for many includes a visit to a neighborhood restaurant. Patronizing local restaurants introduces individuals to up-and-coming or established chefs. Independent restaurants offer tastes of different cuisine and are not beholden to the menu restrictions that may come with franchised establishments. But whether you choose a privately owned spot or even a chain restaurant for a meal, it can be an entertaining escape from kitchen duty.

• Farmers' markets: Many towns feature farmers' markets one or more days during the week, bringing together vendors offering unique and locally produced wares. Although these markets are not entertainment, per se, walking around browsing and interacting with new people can certainly be a relaxing way to spend a few hours.

 Parks and recreation spots: Many areas boast beaches, parks, trails, lakes, marinas, and other destinations that provide opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors. In certain towns, there are spots that are free from crowds that may gather at more well-known

tourist spots. Spending time out and about around town is often quite easy thanks to a variety of recreational and entertaining options nearby.