

HVAC News

Fall 2007 Edition

Dr. HVAC, Please Report to the Rooftop

We all know the basics on how to keep our HVAC systems healthy – keep the system running clean and smooth by changing filters and belts regularly. Just like we all know what keeps our bodies healthy – eating right and exercising. But even the healthiest of health nuts recognize the benefits of regular health checkups from their medical professional.

The same is true of your HVAC systems. Even if you're using your own Building Maintenance Crew to keep your HVAC system in good shape, your systems can benefit from regular checkups from a professional HVAC technician. Like your doctor's blood pressure cuff and MRI, we have our gauges and sophisticated diagnostic tools that allow us to see what's going on inside your HVAC systems. We will take your HVAC system's temperature, check its pressures and diagnose any HVAC aches and pains. Often we can spot and help avoid future HVAC health problems that can result in compressor failure or downtime for your equipment.

So call your HVAC Doctor and get your checkup today! Heating season is just around the corner.

By the way, if you're not changing filters and belts regularly - we won't judge - just give us a call and we'll take care of it for you. Too bad it's not so easy with your doctor - good luck getting him to eat healthy and exercise for you!



How Healthy is Your Ice Machine?

Did you know that the industry-recommended standard for ice machine maintenance is once per month? Although for some ice-users, monthly sanitation may seem a bit obsessive-compulsive, it is a good idea to put your ice machine on a regular maintenance schedule. Depending upon water quality, environment and usage, twice-yearly or quarterly maintenance is a good bet.



Photo courtesy of Manitowoc

Ice machines have two main enemies: mineral build-up and contamination by bacteria or other contaminants. Preventative maintenance helps keep these issues under control and your ice clean and healthy.

Mineral Build-up (Scale): Ice machines use potable water, which is clean and safe for drinking, but it contains minerals that constantly leach out during the ice-making process. These minerals build up on the mechanisms of the ice machine, slowing the ice-making process. This means your machine has to work longer to make the same amount of ice. This wastes electricity and causes more wear and tear on your machine. Eventually, the build-up will cause the machine to stop producing ice altogether. Twice per year maintenance is recommended to keep mineral build-up down to a manageable level.

Bacterial or Other Contamination: The other (and certainly more icky) ice machine enemy is contamination by bacteria or airborne particulates like dust and general human contact. These contaminants can cause an unsanitary environment in your ice machine, sometimes causing slime or other unpleasant ice conditions.

To avoid scale, and especially slime, call us to set up a regular ice machine maintenance schedule.