



# Around the House

Home improvement news compliments of Maeser Master Services  
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## HVAC – up close and personal

The main purpose of a HVAC or heating, ventilation and air conditioning system is to provide satisfactory indoor air quality and thermal comfort. Often, you don't even think about your HVAC system until something goes wrong. Your home suddenly becomes either too hot or too cold, or your system fails altogether. Knowing how to maintain your system and understanding how to maximize the efficiency of your equipment can greatly improve your family's comfort and decrease your frustration.

There are several types of HVAC equipment. The heating element, the furnace, can be fueled by natural gas, fuel oil, coal, electricity, or wood. Another option is a heat pump, which is fueled by electricity. Finally, a geothermal system is fueled by the sun and the warmth of the earth. On the other hand, the equipment used to cool your home may be a central air conditioning system, a heat pump, or a geothermal system.

When the time comes to replace your system, considering an Energy-efficient HVAC system can save you money and reduce pollution. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), geothermal systems are the most energy-efficient, environmentally clean, and cost-effective systems currently available. To offset the installation cost of a new system, check out the local and federal tax credits.

Maintaining your HVAC system is integral in prolonging its life and also in keeping your family comfortable throughout the year. Programming your programmable thermostat or adjusting your thermostat regularly is recommended as the seasons change. Most thermostats are designed to be easy to use and to maximize the performance of your heating and air conditioning system with dependable and consistent temperature control. A programmable thermostat can be routinely adjusted to fit your lifestyle needs and can also save you money on your energy bill. Some systems will stop working if the thermostat batteries are dead, so checking your thermostat batteries every few months can prevent you from being without air conditioning or heat at an inconvenient time.

An especially important practice in maintaining your HVAC system is changing your fiberglass or pleated, polyester air filter once a month. This is *cont.*



## Winter Heating Energy Tips

1. During the winter, open curtains on south-facing windows during the day to allow the sunlight in and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.
2. Use storm or thermal windows. These windows have a layer of air between them which acts as insulation and helps to keep the

heat inside.

3. Apply weather strips to doors, windows and the attic door to reduce heat loss.

4. Moving furniture away from exterior walls allows the warm air to circulate throughout the house, making it feel warmer.

5. Reversing the direction of your ceiling fan so that the blades turn clockwise instead of counter-clockwise can help facilitate warmth in your home. Warm air rises, so switching your fan to the clockwise rotation forces the air down into your living space where you can benefit from it.

## Featured Remodeled Bathroom

Maeser's featured remodel is an **Aging-in-Place** bathroom.

Our customer's bathroom previously had a stand-up shower, standard height vanity and toilet, and outdated fixtures and tile. The shower, vanity, and toilet were no longer functional for our aging customer. Maeser installed a walk-in tub with a built-in seat, water jets, and overhead, detachable showerhead. We installed a comfort-height vanity and toilet for ease of use. The walk-in tub is accentuated with tile walls featuring a mosaic design and built in storage shelf. Our customer chose new chrome fixtures for the tub and sink faucets and a new, beautiful wood vanity and matching linen closet doors to completely update their bathroom. The finished product is appealing to the eye and much more functional to the customer than their previous bathroom.

Consider transforming your outdated or dysfunctional bathroom into a safe, convenient, and gorgeous bathroom that is practical for your family and your guests. Give Maeser a call today to get your bathroom ready for the holidays. Visit our portfolio at [maeser.com](http://maeser.com) to view more photographs of bathrooms we have remodeled.



## QUACKS

### •Sump Pump issues?

Did the recent **record rain** cause damage to your home? Consider getting your sump pump repaired or replaced. For more information, go to: [www.maeser.com](http://www.maeser.com) under plumbing. Don't wait for the next rainstorm to find out that your sump pump has failed.

### •In the spirit of Thanksgiving

Maeser would like to thank you, our most loyal customers, for allowing us to serve you.

### •Bathroom Remodel

Need to remodel your bathroom but don't know where to start? Call us, tell us what you want, and we will give you a free estimate. Visit our portfolio online - [maeser.com/bathroom-remodeling](http://maeser.com/bathroom-remodeling).

### •Maeser Showroom

Another way to begin your bathroom remodel is to view all your options for showers, tubs, lighting, cabinetry, fixtures, etc. Soon that will be possible. Maeser's Bathroom Showroom is coming Spring 2014.

### •Maeser on speed dial

Put Maeser on speed dial for all your plumbing, heating, cooling and bathroom remodel needs!

**Speed dial - 502-266-6546**

### •Refer Maeser

Receive a gift and a gift for your friend when you refer Maeser for plumbing, heating, cooling, geothermal or bathroom remodeling. Just have them call 502-266-6546.

### •Facebook

Like us on facebook.

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cont. HVAC



especially important for a household with indoor pets. Pet hair clogs the air filter and can lead to reduced airflow and equipment damage if the filter is not changed and the system is not maintained. High Efficiency Particulate Arrestance (HEPA) filters very finely filter the air passing through them and trap smoke, molds, bacteria, dust mites, pollen, and other particles. These filters need to be changed every three months.

Routine tune-ups to your HVAC system are very important in maintaining your system. Two tune-ups or maintenances per year are sufficient, and they are usually performed in the spring and fall. Without regular servicing, heating and cooling systems waste energy and are more likely to break down, resulting in costly repairs.

Although you must do your part to maintain your HVAC system, you can rely on Maeser as your home-comfort team. Our Service Partner Precision Tune-Up Plan is designed to detect small problems before they become a major inconvenience that is expensive to repair. You can check out the benefits of this plan below.

### Service Partner™ For Heating & Cooling Services

- ✓ Priority Service
- ✓ High-Performance Tune-up
- ✓ 15% Discount
- ✓ 100% Satisfaction Guarantee
- ✓ Relax, We'll Call You!
- ✓ A Trusted Professional on Your Home Service Team.
- ✓ Transferable to new home or new buyer

Only  
**\$15.95\***  
per month!

\*Subject to change at Maeser's discretion.

**Call us for details! 266-6546**



### "Just Ducky" Services

#### Plumbing

- Back Flow Preventers
- Drain Water Lines
- Drain Cleaning
- Emergency Plumbing Repairs
- Faucet Installation
- Fixture Replacement
- Garbage Disposals
- Gas Piping Repairs
- Sump Pump Flooding Prevention
- Water Heating

#### Heating and Cooling

- Air Cleaners
- Air Conditioning
- Indoor Air Quality Systems
- Furnaces
- Geothermal
- Heat Pumps
- Humidifiers
- Roof Top Units
- Unit Heaters
- Zone Control Comfort Solutions

#### Complete

#### Bathroom Remodel

- Body Massage Shower and Whirlpool Tubs
- Aging In Place Remodels

#### Financing Available

**502-266-6546**  
**www.maeser.com**

## Pre-Winter To-Do List

- ✓ Clean gutters and downspouts
- ✓ Check the smoke and carbon monoxide detector
- ✓ Tune up the furnace
- ✓ Drain outside faucets when temperatures dip
- ✓ Monthly furnace filter change
- ✓ Inspect weather-stripping and caulk
- ✓ Inspect plumbing fixtures for leaks
- ✓ Rake and compost leaves
- ✓ Test GFCI receptacles



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### just ducky recipes...

## Creamy Low-Fat Pumpkin Soup

- Ingredients:**
- 1 small onion, chopped
  - 1 T. olive oil
  - 1 tsp. ground cumin
  - 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
  - 1 can (29 oz.) pumpkin puree
  - 2 c. chicken or vegetable broth
  - Salt and ground black pepper
  - 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
  - 1 1/2 c. 1 percent milk

**Directions:**  
Saute onion in olive oil in a saucepan - about 3 minutes. Add spices and stir for another minute. Add pumpkin puree and broth. Simmer for 5 minutes. Now add milk and heat for another 5 minutes (don't let it boil).