APRIL • MISSION 04

Building-science guidance for Central Illinois homes

Cooling Countdown

Pre-season air conditioning checks, done before the first hot stretch.

/ WHY THIS MONTH?

The first truly hot day is a bad time to discover an AC problem. A calm April check finds small issues while they are still small.

/ THE HOMEOWNER'S MISSION

- Replace the HVAC filter with a fresh one.
- Gently clear leaves and debris from around the outdoor unit. Keep about 2 feet clear; do not bend the fins.
- Run the AC for about 15 minutes and confirm cool air is coming out at the registers.
- Note any rooms with weak airflow while the system is running.

/ WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Warm air at the registers when the system is cooling
- Ice forming on the refrigerant line or the outdoor unit
- Unusually long run times or a system that never shuts off
- Odd noises at startup: rattles, screeches, or clunks

/ WHY IT MATTERS

Finding a small issue in April beats an emergency no-cooling call during the first July heat wave, when every HVAC company is booked solid.

/ WHEN TO CALL GREEN PLATOON

It makes sense to get real data when:

- Warm air at the registers, icing on the line, or weak airflow in some rooms

Diagnostics can tell whether the issue is the equipment, the ducts, or the building envelope — three very different fixes.

QUICK WIN

Replace or clean the filter, 5 to 10 minutes. Write today's date on the frame so you know when it went in.

Home Missions is educational guidance. Never attempt work involving fuel gas, combustion equipment, dangerous electrical conditions, roofs, or hazardous materials.

