JUNE • MISSION 06

Building-science guidance for Central Illinois homes

Airflow Recon

How cooling actually moves through the house, and where ducts lose it.

/ WHY THIS MONTH?

Early summer, before peak heat, is the right time to learn which rooms fall behind and why. Uneven rooms often trace back to the ducts.

/ THE HOMEOWNER'S MISSION

- Compare room-to-room temperatures with a cheap thermometer.
- Feel register airflow in the rooms farthest from the air handler.
- Check the thermostat schedule actually matches your household routine.
- Where safely visible from the attic access only (do not walk the attic), look for crushed, kinked, or disconnected flex duct.

/ WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Rooms running 3 to 4 degrees warmer than the rest of the house
- Weak airflow at distant registers
- Visible flex duct that is crushed, kinked, or fallen apart
- Return grilles blocked by rugs, furniture, or curtains

/ WHY IT MATTERS

Ducts leaking into a hot attic cool the attic, not the house. Uneven rooms are often a duct problem, not an equipment problem — which changes the whole fix.

/ WHEN TO CALL GREEN PLATOON

It makes sense to get real data when:

- Persistent hot rooms once filters and blocked vents are ruled out

Duct leakage testing and airflow diagnostics identify exactly where cooling is being lost.

QUICK WIN

Walk the house and make sure furniture, rugs, or curtains aren't blocking any supply or return vents. 10 minutes, $0.

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

