JULY • MISSION 07

Building-science guidance for Central Illinois homes

Fresh Air Ops

Humidity and stale air during peak AC season, when the house is sealed up.

/ WHY THIS MONTH?

When the AC runs nonstop, the house is closed tight. Ventilation and humidity decide whether the air inside stays reasonable.

/ THE HOMEOWNER'S MISSION

- Check indoor relative humidity with a hygrometer (about $10). Roughly 30 to 50 percent is a healthy target.
- Run bath and kitchen fans while cooking and showering.
- Check the HVAC filter, mid-summer it can be loaded already.
- Note condensation on supply vents or any musty odors.

/ WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Humidity persistently above about 55 to 60 percent
- Sweaty ducts or vents dripping condensation
- Stale or stuffy air that does not clear
- Musty smells, especially in the morning

/ WHY IT MATTERS

Summer humidity drives discomfort and moisture problems, and ventilation is what keeps indoor air quality reasonable when the house is closed up for AC. Monitor first: one humid afternoon is normal — persistent readings are the signal.

/ WHEN TO CALL GREEN PLATOON

It makes sense to get real data when:

- Persistent high humidity, condensation on vents, or musty smells that don't go away

A ventilation and moisture evaluation finds the source instead of treating symptoms.

QUICK WIN

Set a phone reminder to run the bath fan 20 minutes after every shower this month. Cost: $0.

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

