## Time for a tune-up...

It's not too early to have your air conditioning system professionally checked for the upcoming summer workout and you may even take advantage of a preseason service package!

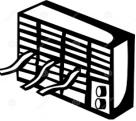


Servicing should include inspecting blower function, duct work, refrigerant levels, belts, drainage, and overall operation of the system. Energy savings can range from 15 to 30 percent immediately after servicing your unit.

## ...or time to replace your AC.?

How old is your current air conditioner? Did it make unusual noises last summer? Did it tackle the humidity like it used to? It may be time to invest in a new air

conditioner—and now's the time to do your shopping, especially if you can take advantage of preseason sales.



It's probably time to replace your AC if you noticed these things last summer:

- It required frequent repairs and your bills kept going up.
- Some rooms were cooler than others. The problem could be faulty duct work, inadequate insulation, or a unit that is improperly sized for your home.
- The system was noisy while running.
- It didn't remove enough humidity.

Purchase units with the ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> label, which ensures that the AC meets the higher standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for that program.

## Call Iowa One Call first

Before you start a spring project that involves digging—such as erecting a fence, planting a tree, etc.—call IOWA ONE CALL at 811 first. (It's the law in IOWA.)



This free service will notify the utilities

to come mark the location of any underground lines. You must call 48 hours in advance of your project, not counting weekends or holidays. (If you call after 5 p.m., the 48-hour clock will start at 8 a.m. the next business day.)



Mt. Pleasant Municipal Utilities 509 North Adams Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

# A new way to pay your utility bill

 ${f A}$ s of June 1, 2024, we are starting online payments!

Mt. Pleasant Municipal Utilities is partnering with Tyler Technologies, the leader in secure government technology solutions and payments, to launch online payments for utility bills. Look for the new link, **Online Payments**, on the City of Mt. Pleasant's website June 1 for a quick and easy way to pay your bill.

<u>Please Note</u>: After June 1, 2024, we will no longer be accepting card payments over the phone. In-person card

payments will still be accepted, but there will be a fee of 2.35% plus \$1.50 per transaction added to total payment.



<u>Online Payment Fees</u>: There will be a fee of 2.35% plus \$1.50 per transaction added to total payment if paid via a debit/credit

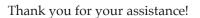
card. If paying via eCheck/ACH there will be a fee of \$1.50 per transaction added to total payment.

Our new online payment options are separate from our current ACH payment option and will have no impact on any current or future ACH payments set up with our office.

For questions, please contact Mt. Pleasant Municipal Utilities at 319/385-2121.

#### **Mower matters**

Remember: Do not blow or push grass clippings into the street; they can accumulate and clog up our city storm sewers. Mulch or bag your clippings instead.





# **Improve Your Water Energy Efficiency**

For home improvements, water-related efficiency projects are usually an afterthought. Here are some ways to improve water energy efficiency, from least expensive to most expensive.

#### **Change Your Habits**

"Reduce" is the first R in recycle for a reason, and it's free! The less water you use in your home, the less your water heater must work in order to heat up city water. Did you know the typical temperature of tap water coming into homes is  $50^{\circ}$  F –  $60^{\circ}$  F, and the typical temperature coming out of the water heater is  $120^{\circ}$  F –  $140^{\circ}$  F? Free water reduction habits include opting for a shower instead of a bath, taking colder showers, taking shorter showers, washing dish-

es in the dishwasher instead of by hand (dishwashers use less energy than the water heater does—and use 88% less water), turning off the water while brushing your teeth, only doing full loads of laundry in your washing machine, and reducing the amount of times you water your lawn.



#### Install a Dual Flush or Low Flow Toilet

The next time you purchase a new toilet, consider buying a toilet that has two different gpm flush options. Given the flushing power required, users of the toilet can decide for themselves how much water they would like to conserve. Also, lower gpm toilets with one flush setting can save water and money too.

#### **Upgrade Your Sump Pump**

If your existing pump is constantly running,

very old, or improperly controlled, it could cost you money. Newer, more energy efficient sump pumps are typically less than .5 horsepower and have thermal protection to prevent overheating. Consult a certified plumber before replacing your sump pump.

#### **Check Your Toilet for Leakage**

Put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the coloring begins to appear in the bowl, you have a leak that may be wasting more than 100 gallons of water a day.

#### **Use Aerators and Low Flow Shower Heads**

Aerators are small attachments that go on the end of bathroom and kitchen faucets. These devices help to reduce water usage by increasing the pressure of the water flow while reducing the volume of water and aerating the stream by spreading out the water spray pattern. Kitchen aerators typically have a lever that can allow you to switch to high volume mode for filling pots with water faster. For bathroom faucets, use  $a \le .35$  gpm (gallons per minute) aerator; for kitchen sinks use  $a \le 1.5$  GPM max aerator; and for showers, usea  $\le 2$  gpm low flow shower head.

#### **Replace Your Old Dish Washer**

ENERGY STAR® appliances can use less than half of the energy used when washing dishes by hand. ENERGY STAR-rated dish washers use on average 12% less energy and 30% less water than a standard dish washer model.

#### **Replace Your Old Water Heater**

Water heater energy efficiency has improved vastly over the last 15 years. Replacing your old water heater with an ENERGY STAR-certified model can save you water and energy. There are now many options when it comes to fuel type, size, cost, and method of heating water—it is recommended to consult a certified plumber when selecting a new unit.