

VINCENT'S NEWS

The 'Van-Go' Gallery



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Did you know...

...the proper term for what we call a toilet is 'water closet'? From washing or grooming, to the room where these acts were done, over time the word 'toilet' has morphed to replace what used to be known as a WC!

THROUGH MY EYES

As a lifelong Michigan resident, it may be surprising that I've never been to the Sleeping Bear Dunes by Lake Michigan until last month.

I've been to Traverse City a handful of times, but I've never made it to the dunes until this trip. The occasion was a high school graduation party on Karen's side of the family. Over two years in the planning by Karen and four of her six sisters, they decided to show up in force to celebrate with their great-niece at her

"Wherever you see a 'Vincent's Van Go' you know the job will be a work of art."



Here's a photo of Karen & me with west Michigan's Sleeping Bear Dunes in the background.- Daniel Squires

Continued Page 3

PLUMBING HELP:

CLEANOUTS FOR SEWER BACKUPS

Having a sewer backup is always a messy occasion, but poor plumbing practices make a bad situation worse. The best situation is when the plumber installed a cleanout to access the sewer outside the house. In this example, a plumber can use his sewer cable and work to clear the clog from outdoors. This means that any 'sewer water' flung off the spinning cable - and any other mess - stays outside your home.

The next best situation is a cleanout located in your basement. This is a minimum standard of the Michigan

plumbing code, which requires a 'clean-out' to be installed at the base of every vertical sewer stack. It's not as nice as an outdoors cleanout to minimize the mess, but it's better than having to remove a bathroom toilet for access.

Sometimes the clog is in the sewer line above the cleanout from a bathroom on an upper floor. This is rare, though, as most sewage backups occur after the sewer pipe exits the house - and typically are caused by tree roots or broken pipes. When the clog is in the house above the cleanout,

Continued Page 2

...Plumbing Help (Continued from Pg.1)

the only option is to pull the toilet and run the sewer snake through the opening.

However, the worst case is having to remove the toilet for access because there isn't another cleanout in the house.

Clearing a sewer from a bathroom is unfortunate, because both the process and getting the equipment to the bathroom is unsanitary.

Without proper preparation of the work area, the pathway to the work area, and the post-cleaning efforts, this can create a health hazard.

There are solutions to avoid these issues. The best one is to have a cleanout installed outside of your house. This requires digging down to expose the sewer where it exits the house. Then the sewer line is cut, and a cleanout is installed with a riser pipe that extends the cleanout to ground level. The fitting that is used to create the access is called a wye and it has a 45° angle to direct the sewer cable toward the

main city sewer or septic tank. Our normal practice is to install a 2-way cleanout. In addition to the cleanout described, this has a second cleanout with a second wye directing the sewer cable inside the house should a clog occur inside the house (see the nearby photo).



In the case of a house with a crawlspace instead of a basement the solution is to extend a cleanout outside the house through the crawlspace wall. There is no ready solution for a house built on a concrete slab, or where the crawlspace is too shallow (short) to allow the work to be done.

The next best solution is to install a cleanout in the basement where it should

have been in the first place according to best plumbing practices and the plumbing code. With this option, the main vertical stack is supported so it can be cut, and a cleanout is installed.

If you would like to take advantage of one of these solutions to avoid the unsanitary and unhealthy situations described above, don't procrastinate. The best time to have it done is before you have a backup. Trying to do it then will cause an even bigger mess.

The final solution – where a toilet needs to be pulled to access the sewer – requires better preparation to protect your floor where the sewer cable equipment will be transported, and to protect the area where the operation will be performed. This is a premium option that is available.

Give me a call if you would like to discuss your situation to explore your options.

– Daniel Squires

What Our Clients Are Saying...

“Excellent service for a great price! We're very happy with everything that was done and everyone we dealt with! These are great people to work with!”

- Joann Reeves, Saint Clair

Through My Eyes (Continued from Pg. 1)

party. And we made it a reunion of sorts by renting a big log cabin on Grand Traverse Bay where we could all stay together. And that set the stage for the trip to the dunes.

Three years prior, Karen and I could've seen the dunes, but didn't. That was back in 2020 when COVID disrupted our 'Bike and Barge' trip to south France. Unable to travel out of the country, we scrambled to find somewhere close to go on vacation. We ended up renting a cottage on the Leelanau Peninsula above Traverse City for part of a week in October. We took our bikes and spent a lot of time exploring the Leelanau Trail from Sutton's Bay to Traverse City. While there, we spent time with Karen's nephew Gary and his family, including his daughter Alyssa, who graduated this year. Our focus was on riding our bikes so I don't know why we never thought about Sleeping Bear Dunes in 2020.

That trip helped shape our plans for this year's visit to Traverse City. We planned to do more biking, however, this time, we returned with e-bikes. On the previous trip, after we left Traverse City we drove to Mackinac and biked around Mackinac Island. This meant we had to bring our regular bikes, as Mackinac Island doesn't allow e-bikes. If you're not familiar with e-bikes, you still must pedal but your efforts are amplified which provides a boost. Because they aren't self-powered like a moped, it's still a workout.

The plan was to arrive a day before the

Saturday open house and stay until Monday morning. This gave us plenty of time to have some bike rides, which we did. Our cabin was only 1/2 mile away from a Leelanau Trail head, so Friday night we got a 10-mile ride in. Saturday, we got up early and got another 21 miles in before having to get ready for the open house at noon.

The views were spectacular,
and we had a wonderful time.

So, on Sunday, we finally made it to Sleeping Bear Dunes and rode another 20 miles on the Heritage Trail. The views were spectacular, and we had a wonderful time. And with all the hills and changes in elevation we were sure glad to have the assistance that an e-bike provides. E-bikes are a great example of how leveraging technology can provide better results than without it. I know we rode further and faster than we could have on regular bicycles.

New technology is also helping us deliver better service for you. I'll go deeper next month, but recently we've made a significant investment in technology for our technicians for furnace and air conditioner service. Like an e-bike, this technology allows our techs to go 'further and faster' than without it - that is, it quickly provides a more comprehensive analysis of your system to enable us to do a better job for you in terms of comfort, energy savings, and better performance. I'll explain more next month. - Daniel Squires

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VHPinc.com/gallery

M	F	P	P	C	M	I	T	M	Z	N	P	W	O	L	E	P	L	B	Y	Meadowsweet
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P	M	U	D	K	U	I	F	K	C	O	U	F	L	P	R	N	Z	M	S	Miterwort
T	L	R	B	O	T	R	O	W	R	E	T	I	M	L	O	R	A	I	M	Mullein
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U	S	B	L	E	W	P	W	D	B	A	X	O	Z	W	W	N	O	K	A	Primrose
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Q	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	N	I	W	T	V	P	I	N	A	H	O	O	Teasel
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Humor Section



A horse walks into a bar. The bartender says, "Why the long face?"

Did you hear about the guy who drank invisible ink? He's at the hospital waiting to be seen.

Now that's good news!

*The LORD makes firm the steps
of the one who delights in him;
though he may stumble, he will not fall,
for the LORD upholds him with his hand.*

- Psalm 37:23-24

WHY YOU DON'T WANT ANY DIRT ON YOUR FURNACE BLOWER WHEEL

A dirty furnace blower wheel is an important factor in how well your HVAC system heats and cools your home. If dirt or grease build up on the blades of your furnace blower wheel, it slows down how fast the wheel rotates and decreases the amount of air it moves. This makes your blower motor work harder,

This reduced air flow decreases system performance. As little as 1/10 of an inch of dust on your blower blades can have a dramatic impact on system performance, efficiency, and longevity.



Here's the impact of a dirty furnace blower wheel:

- **EFFICIENCY** – Expect higher utility bills with a dirty blower wheel. *Reduced air flow means your system must work longer and harder to satisfy your thermostat.*
- **PERFORMANCE** – Expect your home to be less comfortable with a dirty blower.
 - Reduced air flow decreases your HVAC equipment's heating & cooling capacity.
 - Your system won't keep up as well in extreme cold or extreme heat.
 - This also diminishes your air conditioner's ability to lower the humidity in the air.
- **LONGEVITY** – Expect more repairs and shortened equipment life.
 - With reduced air flow your furnace blower motor will overheat from using more electricity and eventually burn out.
 - With reduced air flow your furnace heat exchanger is put under more stress that leads to cracks from overheating. This shortens the life of your furnace.

THE SOLUTION: DON'T NEGLECT YOUR FURNACE & AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM!

- 1) Change your furnace filter frequently!
- 2) Keep your system operating safely and performing well with annual maintenance.
- 3) Put 'Step 2' on auto-pilot by joining the Enhanced Service Plan!

With the Enhanced Service Plan your system will get the attention it needs like clockwork - you won't have to worry about anything. We keep track of when maintenance is due, automatically schedule it, and notify you when a tech can is coming. In addition to automatic scheduling and annual maintenance, you will also enjoy priority service, discounted pricing and peace of mind!

Call VincentsHeatingPlumbing.com (810) 985-7103

See reverse side for what other clients say.



“What Clients Say About VHP Maintenance:”

5 STARS “Excellent service! I rely on Vincent's for annual maintenance for my furnace and air conditioning and am always pleased with their professional expertise.”

- Barbara Collins, Port Huron

5 STARS “Every encounter with Vincent’s Heating and Plumbing, Inc for the last 20 years has been exceptional, from start to finish. Nancy and Amy at the office, and every one of the technicians I have had for service have been so professional, kind, and willing to answer questions.”

- Debbie Owers, Port Huron

5 STARS “VHP has done the maintenance on my AC for years. I am sure this is why my AC has lasted and is in its 21st year!”

- Sally Smith , St Clair

**JOIN VHP’S ENHANCED
SERVICE PLAN AND
EXPERIENCE OUTSTANDING
SERVICE FOR YOURSELF!**

5 STARS “The service is great, and the serviceman is awesome! Our annual check-ups are always easy to schedule at a convenient time for us. The reminder calls and the ‘*He’s on his way*’ call is always appreciated. The peace of mind from knowing that our furnace will work when we need it is a blessing.”

- Brian Campbell, Fort Gratiot

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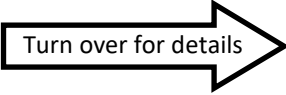
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WHY IS PROPER AIRFLOW SO IMPORTANT?

WHAT IS FAN AIRFLOW?



The fan in a heating and cooling system is like a human heart

The human heart is a powerful pump that circulates life-sustaining blood throughout the body via a complex network of vessels and arteries. In much the same way, the heating and cooling system uses a powerful fan to move comfort-sustaining conditioned air throughout the home via a complex network of air ducts.

When a human heart is functioning under normal blood pressure conditions, the body can enjoy good health. But, when blood pressure is too high or too low, the heart can be damaged, leading to poor health and even death.

The same is true with your heating and cooling fan. When the fan operates at higher pressures than it's supposed to, it runs hotter (shortening motor life), uses more energy (increasing energy bills), and moves less conditioned air (decreasing comfort). Proper fan airflow makes sure that the right amount of air will be efficiently circulated to control indoor temperature, humidity, and air cleanliness.

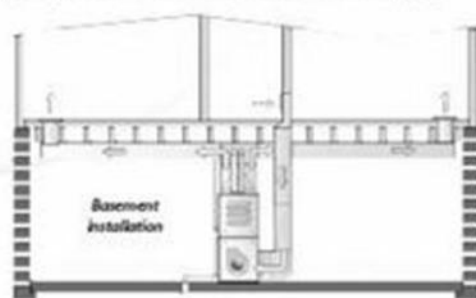
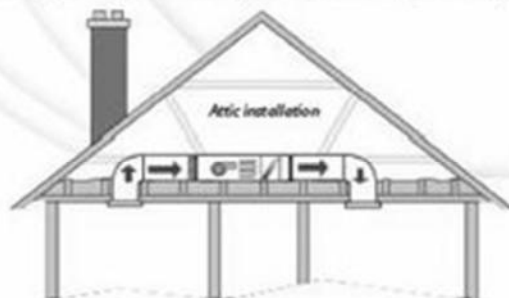
Airflow is the "life blood" of your home's heating and cooling system


Poor circulation in the human body reduces the amount of oxygen-rich blood delivered to vital organs. Without adequate levels of blood, your organs will begin shutting down. Poor circulation results from

other health issues and it's important to treat the underlying causes, rather than just the symptoms.

Improper fan airflow reduces the amount of conditioned air delivered to each room in the house. Fan airflow is commonly affected by improper fan sizing, wrong fan speed selection, dirty blower wheels, clogged heat exchangers, restrictive air filters, improper air duct design, damaged air ducts, and more. It's important to properly diagnose and effectively treat the underlying causes of poor fan airflow.

Without proper airflow, your home will not be as safe, healthy, comfortable and energy efficient as it should be.



THE FIRST STEP TO KNOW IF YOUR HOME'S HVAC SYSTEM HAS HEALTHY AIRFLOW IS TO HAVE A STATIC PRESSURE TEST PERFORMED. 

ASK FOR A STATIC PRESSURE TEST
WHEN YOU CALL TO SCHEDULE A
HEATING OR COOLING MAINTENANCE
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