

The Healthy Home Report



AtlasCare®

Pursuing perfect health for your home™

An Engineer's Opinion

Pursuing perfect health for your home

At AtlasCare it is our goal to provide valuable information and services to our customers that can help them improve the health of their families and the homes they live in. With that objective in mind, we present to you the first edition of *The Healthy Home Report*.

The air inside your home can actually be more harmful than the air outdoors. Dust mites, animal dander, chemicals and more all float around in the air we breathe. It's a scary thought, especially given that we think of our homes as retreats from the outside world.

This issue focuses specifically on indoor air quality and how we can work together to help your family stay healthy. Personally, I believe this will become a serious concern in our urban environment as our population ages, but one that is easily addressed.

There are many ways to help improve indoor air quality and we touch on

most of them in this issue. By investing in the health of your home, you're also reducing your carbon footprint by adopting energy efficient and "clean" methods of heating and cooling.

You'll especially want to take advantage of our Spring Special featured in this issue. Book our Canary Air Quality Assurance Testing for just \$199 – it's an easy and scientific way to evaluate the quality of your indoor air and receive advice on how it can be improved.

As always, we welcome your feedback and would love to hear from you about our new newsletter. Contact me any time at 905-829-1296 ext. 226 or e-mail rgrochmal@atlascare.ca.

Roger Grochmal P.Eng.
President, AtlasCare



Spring 2008

Upgrade and Save

Old, inefficient air conditioners are unreliable, waste hundreds of dollars each year and have a huge impact on our environment. **High-efficiency air conditioners** enhance the comfort in your home while reducing your carbon footprint. Upgrading means a cool, comfortable home for you and a cleaner environment for us all.

If your air conditioner is more than 10 years old, if you are experiencing excessive humidity or inconsistent temperatures in your home, it may mean your equipment is operating poorly or is improperly sized – both important reasons to upgrade sooner rather than later.

The steamy summer months will be much easier to bear thanks to government rebates and grants that can save you thousands:

- **Exceptional Dealer Rebate** from York or Ruud.
- **Cool Savings Rebate:** Available through the Ontario Power Authority, these rebates can save up to \$550 when you replace your heating and/or cooling system with more efficient models.
- **ecoEnergy Audit Rebates:** These federal and provincial government programs start with a home audit, and offer grants of up to \$10,000 per home for energy efficient upgrades.

Conditions apply and these government programs may not last long, so contact an AtlasCare Healthy Home Specialist today for more information.

Visit us at www.atlascare.ca.

Energy Audits improve your home's efficiency and reduce your carbon footprint

Perhaps your furnace or air conditioner is getting "up there in years" or maybe you've noticed air leaks around windows and doors. Is air escaping from your attic, or through switchplates? It all adds up to significant energy costs to you and the environment.

A certified Energy Audit from AtlasCare identifies these trouble spots, and provides insight on energy and cost savings that can be realized with upgrades. Best of all, the completed audit allows you to take advantage of substantial government rebates available on heating and air conditioning equipment.

Talk to an AtlasCare Healthy Home Specialist for details.



At Your Service

With Dick Thomas

With spring on our doorstep our thoughts naturally turn to the warm summer months ahead. Keeping your air conditioner properly maintained ensures you don't have to give your cooling system a second thought when the steamy months of July and August roll in.

A thorough AtlasCare check-up ensures any issues or problems are identified right away, preventing costly repairs or breakdowns during the dog days of summer. A properly maintained air conditioner also functions at peak efficiencies, meaning you save money and use less energy which benefits our environment.



Schedule your service now to beat the crowds and beat the heat. New high-tech instruments allow us to tune-up your equipment at any time of the year. While it's difficult to imagine having your furnace tuned up in April and your air conditioner maintenance check performed in September, thinking outside the box when it comes to your home comfort equipment will help us serve all our customers better.

Tech Tip *with George Parry*

Water damage in your home can result in mould, mildew and a host of other indoor air quality issues, all of which can be detrimental to your health. Fortunately, you can protect yourself with an **affordable safety switch**.

Your air conditioner, high-efficiency furnace and humidifier all produce water flow to a drain which, if it becomes plugged, can cause water damage from flooding. Installing a

safety switch, such as a wet switch or a float switch, provides you with added protection and peace-of-mind. The switch, which is wired to shut off power to your equipment should the drain become plugged, can also spare you from the high cost of replacing a furnace motor or electronic component damaged by water.

The installation costs are minimal and well worth the investment to protect your home. In most instances, these safety switches can be installed at the time of your tune-up so there is no need for a return visit.

Unsure which to choose? Simply ask and your Healthy Home Technician will be happy to recommend the best option for you.



AtlasCare in the Community

Thank you for your outstanding support! This winter saw the launch of the **AtlasCare Comfort Drive**. With generous contributions from our customers and employees, we were able to donate more than 50 gently used coats and blankets to *Out of the Cold*, which provides a safe refuge, hospitality and emergency shelter to the homeless community throughout the City of Toronto.

In addition, thanks to generous cash donations from all AtlasCare employees, we donated 60 personal care kits containing toiletries and other essentials to *Out of the Cold*.

The Comfort Drive continues. Feel free to stop by with your donations at any time. It will help someone stay warm and comfortable next winter.



Making a great first impression



As the old saying goes, you truly don't get a second chance to make a great first impression. That's why we've appointed **Kim Hallmark** as the **AtlasCare Director of First Impressions**. As our frontline representative, it is Kim's goal to ensure that every person who calls or visits the office has a great impression of us. With her generous personality and professionalism, there is nobody better than Kim to be your first point of contact when you call AtlasCare.

Hydronic Happenings

With Ron Robinson, AtlasCare Hydronic Specialist

No ducts? No problem. SPACEPAK technology is out of this world.

Anyone with hydronic heating knows the benefits a hot-water heated home can bring – warm, even heat, less dust and noise and luxurious upgrades. Cooling a home without ducts can be just as easy and comfortable with the advanced **technology of SPACEPAK**.

This unique central cooling system is most often installed in the attic and supplies cool and dehumidified air quietly through 2" insulated flex ducts to each room. This top-down cooling system takes advantage of gravity to provide the ultimate in summer comfort.

There are added indoor air quality features to this innovative product.

Its deep coil design removes up to 30% more moisture from the air than a conventional ducted system.

You feel cool and comfortable at a higher, more energy efficient thermostat setting.

Keep your cool this summer. Contact your AtlasCare Healthy Home Specialist to schedule an inspection and receive a no-cost, no-obligation quote before the heat wave hits.

Take advantage of this cool deal: If you order your system by May 15 with installation completed by June 30, AtlasCare will cover the tax.



Breathe Easy *with Steve Yodouwitch, Healthy Home Specialist*

AtlasCare Canary Indoor Air Quality Testing clears the air

Respiratory-related illnesses such as asthma are on the rise. A key factor is **poor indoor air quality**. Hidden irritants such as dust and animal dander and major concerns like moulds and chemical vapours inside your home can actually be more hazardous to your health than the air outside.

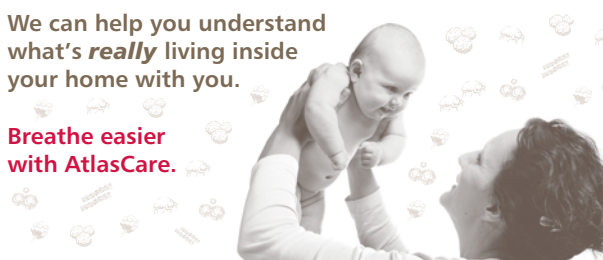
We think it is important to take the guesswork out of indoor air quality. Clear, scientific evidence is the only sure way to understand what is in the air you breathe. That's where the **Canary Air Quality Assurance Test from AtlasCare** comes in. This portable air monitor evaluates your indoor air quality and issues a 100% accurate report and recommendations for corrective measures.

The test is fast and easy and you'll get your **results in 72 hours**. Canary Air Quality Assurance is a small investment in the health of your home and family, and the benefits have an immediate pay off. Call us today, or visit us at www.atlascare.ca for more information.

Are you having a bad air day?

We can help you understand what's **really** living inside your home with you.

Breathe easier with AtlasCare.



\$199

SPRING SPECIAL!

Canary Indoor Air Quality Testing
Offer valid until May 31, 2008.

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