

The Healthy Home Report

Fall 2009



AtlasCare®

Pursuing perfect health for your home™

An Engineer's Opinion

Now is the time to breathe easy



There's no doubt about it. We spend a lot of time indoors enjoying the luxury of our homes – especially during our cold Canadian winters. That's why it is so important to ensure your indoor air quality is part of the comfort mix. Many distinguish the comfort

of their home by the temperature it keeps. While that is certainly an important factor, it is critical to note the air you breathe plays a huge part in your health and overall well-being.

The World Health Organization recently published its first guidelines on indoor air quality addressing dampness and mould. Authors of that report conclude that occupants of damp or mouldy buildings, both private and public, have up to 75% greater risk of respiratory symptoms and asthma.

In addition to the concerns associated with humidity, excessively dry air can cause a number of issues as well, and can in fact wreak havoc on household furniture and finishes. Combine humidity levels with dust, pet hair, and other allergens and the air in your home becomes more polluted than the air outside.

Part of our commitment to the health of customers' homes and their families is addressing indoor air quality issues head on and providing state-of-the-art solutions.

You'll read further in this issue of *The Healthy Home Report*, that we've put our name on a number of indoor air quality products because we believe so strongly in our commitment to safe and healthy homes.

We are pleased to offer a wide range of products and services and are committed to building a solution that's just right for you and your family. Many homeowners like to start with a thorough duct and dryer vent cleaning. Others would prefer to have us test their air with our Canary system to determine if there are any priority areas that need to be addressed.

This could include an ERV to bring in fresh air year round; furnace and HEPA filters to remove airborne particles and carbon and UV lights to deal with chemicals and biological contaminants in the air. Or, you can be like me and put in a good system before you have a problem and rest assured that you are breathing the best air possible at all times. The most important part is regular maintenance to ensure that everything is clean and operating as it was designed. Our Healthy Home Technicians would be more than happy to discuss how we can help you achieve perfect health in your home.

Now is the time to make indoor air quality a priority in your home. Talk to us about how we can help.

Roger Grochmal

Roger Grochmal, P.Eng.
President and CBO, AtlasCare

Healthy Home Tip
Now is the time to clean your humidifiers.



Product Spotlight

Now is the time for healthy indoor air with AtlasCare IAQ products and services

In the last issue of *The Healthy Home Report*, we told you about the AtlasCare line of heating and cooling products. We are pleased to announce this fall sees the addition of an extensive offering of indoor air quality products also bearing the AtlasCare name.

The quality of air you breathe in your home is critical to the safety and health of your family. Poor indoor air can result in respiratory ailments, aggravate allergies and simply put, make you sick. The AtlasCare line of IAQ products features humidifiers, furnace and HEPA filters and ultraviolet air purifiers all designed to improve the air you breathe.

These exciting additions to our product offerings mean we can pass on exceptional rates and superior products to our customers, and our customers can take comfort in the fact that we are so confident in the quality of the products that we've put our name on them.

In our pursuit of perfect health for our customers' homes, we have also recently added two more duct cleaning trucks to our fleet to meet demand and provide efficient, first-class service. Combining state-of-the-art technology and the expertise of our Clean Air Technicians, a professional duct cleaning from AtlasCare removes dirt, dust and allergens from your home and improves the air your family breathes.

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AtlasCare in the Community

Now is the time to save up your winter coats and apparel

Before we know it, winter will be upon us (didn't we just get summer?!) and the third annual AtlasCare Comfort Drive will be in full swing. While you're clearing out your closets or cruising neighbourhood garage sales, keep

your eyes open for gently used adult-sized winter hats, mitts, scarves, coats and boots.



We are ramping up the Comfort Drive this year and will be looking to our customers, our community and beyond to support this cause. Watch for more information coming soon about other exciting changes and how you can help.

It's in us to give

This September marks the third AtlasCare blood donor clinic. As a corporate partner we provide our employees with company time off every two months to donate blood to Canadian Blood Services. We hope you'll help us achieve our goal of 100 pints of blood within an anniversary year by donating toward our total (be sure to quote #ATLA010266).

Did you know that one pint of blood can save three lives? It's a small donation to make and it can have a life-saving impact. Visit www.bloodservices.ca or call 1-888-2-DONATE for a clinic in your area and help us pursue perfect health for our community.

AtlasCare employees walk (and golf) for MS

On Sunday, April 19, 2009 the staff at AtlasCare once again participated in the MS Society Walkathon at the

Mississauga Lakeshore location. Over 40 employees and family members joined for the seventh year in a row and raised over \$5,000 to help eradicate multiple sclerosis and provide services locally to those afflicted with the disease. AtlasCare is also a major sponsor for the MS Society's annual golf tournament held in September.



Healthy Home Tip
Now is the time to check your houseplants for mould.

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Did you know that a thorough cleaning can remove up to six pounds of dirt from your ducts? Clean indoor air improves respiratory ailments, alleviates allergies, wards off viruses and illnesses and creates a healthier indoor environment – not to mention clean ducts mean your home comfort equipment functions more efficiently which saves energy and money on your utility bills.

Visit www.atlascare.ca for more information or to book your appointment.

Now is the time for fresh air from AtlasCare by vanEE



When we decided to put together a group of products and services to carry the AtlasCare brand we looked beyond just finding "me too" items. We looked for best-in-class products with innovative features that deliver real value. The best example falls under ventilation. We have partnered with Venmar, the premier Canadian manufacturer of ventilators to co-brand this most important fresh air product for your home.

"AtlasCare by vanEE" – it's compact and easy to install in more places since it only needs a single outside access. We teamed it up with a revolutionary fresh air control that is very simple to use and can graphically show you how the ventilator is improving your indoor air. Homeowners take advantage of optimum humidity control while receiving continuous fresh air.

The National Building Code is undergoing a review to make ventilators mandatory in all new home construction. Homes have become so tight to improve energy consumption that fresh air ventilation can no longer be considered an option.

Don't wait for this to become mandatory. Many of us live in tight homes already and suffer the effects of poor quality indoor air. Call and find out how you can upgrade to the "AtlasCare by vanEE" and create the fresh air oasis in your own home today. You will be amazed at how affordable a breath of fresh air can be.

Now is the time to visit atlascare.ca

We are excited to announce the launch of our new website at www.atlascare.ca. The new site is comprehensive and user-friendly and provides visitors with a wealth of information about AtlasCare, the services it provides and the products it offers. A modern new look that complements our brand rounds out the overhaul.

"We have refocused our internet presence by creating a site that people will want to come back and visit. Our commitment to pursuing perfect health for homes in new and innovative ways, like the website, is one more reason why homeowners can trust the safety and comfort of their homes to AtlasCare" says **Roger Grochmal, AtlasCare President.**

Visit us today at atlascare.ca and check out our video "The Perfect Install", see the Current Promotions page for deals and offers, book your service appointment, find out about the benefits of duct cleaning, and more. Also watch for our new video on duct cleaning – it's a breathe of fresh air!

At Your Service

With **Dick Thomas**

Now is the time for fire safety

Like most appliances in our home, we don't give much thought to our smoke or carbon monoxide detectors until we run into problems (or the "low-battery" signal starts to beep!) Daylight savings time is always a good reminder to change the batteries in these devices, but how many homeowners actually do it?

The simple fact is – smoke and CO detectors save lives and maintaining these important pieces of equipment is essential to the safety of your home and family.

The AtlasCare "Fire and Life Safety" tune-up special helps families stay safe. Here's how it works:

- Purchase a First Alert CO detector (Model C0615A) for just \$99 plus tax and we'll install it while we're in your home during a furnace tune-up.*
- Purchase a CO detector and have us change the batteries in two of your smoke detectors for only \$119.99.
- Changing batteries in additional smoke detectors is extra – talk to us for more information.

**please note that this deal is only valid if an AtlasCare Healthy Home Technician is already going to be in your home for a furnace tune-up.*

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