



Comfortable LIVING

Winter Newsletter 2015



FURNACES MUST BE SIZED CORRECTLY TO WORK RIGHT

Residential furnaces come in various sizes measured in Btu (British thermal units). They range from 40,000 Btu all the way up to 100,000 Btu or even larger. Your furnace needs to be correctly sized to provide efficient heating and cooling and avoid excessive repairs. A furnace sized too small will not deliver, or it will strain to deliver enough heating and cooling to your home, while an oversized furnace will waste energy and money. Both will lead to excessive breakdowns and premature failure.

When we get called to a home with heating and/or cooling problems, one of the most common issues we confront is a furnace that's improperly sized. For the most part it comes from either laziness or lack of knowledge by the person who installed or replaced the furnace.

Our field is filled with people who should know better, but who persist in using "rules of thumb" when it comes to selecting a furnace size. They will base it solely on the square footage of a home, or when replacing a unit will simply select the same size as the old one.

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Common sense tells us that bigger homes probably will require larger furnaces, but a lot more goes into selecting the proper size for any given amount of space. Proper size should be based on energy-loss calculations that take into account window areas, the amount of insulation and other factors. This evaluation needs to be done room by room. Professional companies like ours used tried-and-true manuals and computer programs to guide us through the calculations. It's not that hard to do and we're always mystified why so many HVAC firms choose to shortcut the process when it requires so little effort, yet has so much to do with how the system performs.

Energy-loss calculations need to be done when replacing a furnace, as well as when installing a new one. One simple reason is that the old equipment might have been improperly sized, which might well be the reason it broke down. Even if the old furnace was right for the job, replacing older units with new high-efficiency models often enables you to downsize to a unit that can do more with less and save you energy and money in the process.

Also, with any furnace installation or replacement, it's important for the technician to check the ductwork to make sure it is appropriately sized and not plagued by leakage. Your furnace is the heart of your home's HVAC system, while the ductwork is its arteries. You know what happens to your heart if your arteries get clogged or get diseased.

No doubt you've heard the old adage – "you get what you pay for." People who shop for the cheapest price when selecting an HVAC company will most likely end up with someone who cuts corners. One way to cut corners is to use a "rule of thumb" instead of energy-loss calculation when selecting or replacing a furnace. Air-Tro never cuts corners.



COUPON CORNER

\$25 OFF



ANY DIAGNOSTIC FEE

SINGLE USE ONLY. EXPIRES 02/01/16. MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS. PLEASE MENTION THIS OFFER WHEN SCHEDULING AND PRESENT AT TIME OF YOUR CALL.

\$15 OFF



NEW SERVICE AGREEMENT

SINGLE USE ONLY. EXPIRES 02/01/16. MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS. PLEASE MENTION THIS OFFER WHEN SCHEDULING AND PRESENT AT TIME OF YOUR CALL.

\$39 OFF



WIFI THERMOSTAT

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WINTER BUCKET LIST

- Build A Snowman
- Make a Gingerbread House
- Go Sledding/Skiing
- See The Lights
- Donate Toys/Clothes
- Warm Up By A Fire
- Drink Hot Cocoa
- Have A Snowball Fight
- Listen To Holiday Music
- Go Ice Skating
- Make Apple Cider
- Take A Snowy City Walk
- Host A Winter Party With Friends
- Spend Time With Family
- Pay It Forward
- Catch A Snowflake On Your Tongue
- Bundle Up With Blankets
- Drink Some Eggnog
- Read A Good Book
- Wear Mittens
- Decorate Gingerbread Cookies
(See Back For Recipe)
- Call Air-Tro
to Winterize Your
Home

DON'T TRUST CONTRACTORS WHO DON'T PULL A PERMIT

Major home construction jobs and renovations require a permit from a local building department. Most home owners realize this when it comes to projects visible from the street. What many home owners don't know is that in some jurisdictions permits are also required for major interior repairs and replacements, such as for water heaters and furnaces.

Because this work takes place inside the home, many contractors will fail to advise the home owner that a permit is needed, or tell home owners that they can save money by doing away with the permit. This is true, although the cost of a permit is usually a very small percentage of the job at hand. What these contractors won't tell you is that failure to take out a permit in effect waives many legal rights of the building owner. If the contractor goofs up, the lack of a building permit may make it harder for the building owner to seek restitution. It may even leave the building owner subject to a fine.

Some jurisdictions go overboard with permitting, because they see it as a cash cow for their building department. This is annoying to those of us in the trades as well as a sneaky back-door tax on home owners. Nonetheless, whether we agree with a policy or not, our company abides by the law. If a permit is required, we will include it for the job at hand. This protects us and you.





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Gingerbread Cookies



Yield: 5 dozen

- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 3/4 cup molasses
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1-1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1-1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- Frosting of your choice to decorate



1. In a large bowl, cream butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Add egg, vanilla, and molasses. Combine the flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Cover and refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight or until easy to handle. (Dough can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 4 days, but return to room temp before using.)
2. On a lightly floured surface, roll dough to 1/8-in. thickness. Use additional flour to avoid sticking. Cut out cookies with desired cutter - the ginger bread man is a favorite of course! Place one inch apart on ungreased baking sheets.
3. Bake at 350° for 8-10 minutes or until edges are firm. (the lower time will give you softer cookies!) Remove to wire racks to cool. After cookies are cool you may decorate them any way you like!



Source:
www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/gingerbread-cutout-cookies