

Kellam Mechanical, Inc.'s

HOMEsense

Smart & simple ways to enrich your home living



☎ 757-430-0358

🌐 www.kellammechanical.com

Fill the Gaps to Save Energy

Caulking is an awesome thing to do, assuming you like to stay warm in winter. That toasty air flowing from your heater or furnace has a better chance of keeping you comfortable if you keep it indoors.

Your heating and cooling take up about half of the total energy costs in your home – and with proper sealing and insulation, you can cut heating and cooling costs substantially.

Air leaks aren't hard to find. As a matter of fact, they feel like "leaking air." You can find leaks by moving your hand around the frames of windows and doors. If you feel air coming through, there's an opening ready for sealing.

Gaps can occur where different materials meet – such as between brick and wood siding or between the foundation and walls. Potential trouble

spots include: mail chutes, electrical and gas service entrances, cable and phone lines, outdoor water faucets and vents/fans. Caulking is used to fill many gaps; weather stripping is for the movable joints of your doors and windows.

Sealing your heating and cooling ducts can also improve the efficiency of your heating and cooling system by as much as 20 percent. The performance of your system, however, is perhaps the most significant factor affecting energy use.

If your system is more than 10 years old or isn't keeping you comfortable, have it evaluated. If it's time for a replacement, consider replacing your system with a unit that has a higher efficiency rating. These systems reduce energy spending and increase comfort. We can help you find the system that's right for you. Call us for details.

MY WORD

By Scott Kellam



Dear Friends,

We had a busy summer keeping locals cool and happy. I'm fortunate in that I

love what I do.

I recently heard about a study of social media comments related to how people feel about their jobs. It triggered my fondness seeing my coworkers display their love for their job daily at Kellam Mechanical. This passion has trickled into the customer experience, and we were recently recognized for superior service with the BEST OF awards in the HVAC category. I proudly announce Kellam Mechanical was voted gold in BEST OF for Norfolk and silver in BEST OF for Virginia Beach. It excites me to know that our employees spread excellence every day to make a difference.

One of our favorite ways to serve is to offer preventative services. Give us a call to schedule your annual system tune-up to maintain your equipment for optimal efficiency and proper operation. Tell 'em Kellam!

Scott Kellam



“Clean” Energy? How Dirt Removal Saves Money

Dirt is a pretty big energy zapper. It clogs up appliances, causes everything to work harder and creates problems in lots of places, most especially in your home comfort system.

Regularly cleaning or replacing air filters in your HVAC system can save 5 to 15 percent in energy use. You can do this on your own monthly for more comfortable, efficient operation. Then, just before the peak season, it's time for a full professional cleaning and inspection of your heater or furnace.

During those dormant months, dust and dirt have had a chance to collect in your heating system. As dirt builds up, it obstructs performance – decreasing and delaying comfort. The longer it takes for the system to heat up, the more energy you use. And of course, that means more of your energy dollars down the drain.

So that's one way you save: a clean system uses less energy than one that hasn't been properly maintained. But there's another plus too. A tuned system is less likely to break down on a cold winter night. Most breakdowns, in fact, can be traced back to a lack of maintenance.

Heating and cooling is already using up about half of your home energy use. Don't let it use more by doubling down on energy and repair costs. Call us to get your furnace or heater tuned for winter. The inspection will also let you know if a dangerous carbon monoxide leak is creating serious health risks for your family.



Focus on the Focal Point

Solid focal points can be the icing on the cake for any room, turning a boring, lifeless space into something beautiful and fun! Among their perks, they keep the space in balance and coordinate with what is around them – sort of like that sparkly piece of jewelry that completes the perfect outfit! If you're thinking of redesigning your rooms, this checklist gives good guidance:

Wall Color – Because this is the largest surface in the space, consider a color that is classic and lasting.

Furniture – While you don't have to make sure every piece matches, you do want the pieces of furniture to appear to be coordinated with each other – and not clashing.

Textures – Use textures on walls, in fabrics, drapery, rugs, etc.

Color Palette – This includes colors carried throughout the space in various pieces such as furniture and walls, as well as accented colors.

Focal Point – This could be an exotic rug, a patterned chair, a bold piece of artwork or anything that grabs your attention.

Accessories – Special touches are fun to add and make a big difference. These could be works of art, candles, funky lamps or centerpieces.

Lighting – No matter how great the space looks, top it off with proper lighting. This is the mood setter, so choose wisely.



HEAT UP WITH FALL FINANCE

Update your heating system with this best chance for finance. Call today to schedule your free quote proposing the newest technology paired with parts and labor warranty installed by our talented team of technicians.

0% up to 72 months
Kellam Mechanical
757-430-0358

Expires **11/15/21**

*With credit approval on qualifying equipment.
Not to be combined with other offers.*

Keep It Clean...

If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times: washing your hands is essential to maintaining your health. Here's the dirt...

Handrails, phones and doorknobs can be loaded with bacteria that's right at your fingertips (literally).

Touching your face, eyes, or nose is an unconscious (and unsanitary) habit. Infectious diseases can enter your body if the mucous membranes in these areas are contaminated.

Plus, germs from unwashed hands also find their way into your food, making it easier for you to get sick.

DUCT CLEANING AND SANITIZING

New service announcement!

Call today to schedule an appointment to enhance your indoor air experience. Eliminate dust, dander, growth, spores, dirt, odors and grime so your air is prime!

\$100 off good through 11/30/21
Not to be combined with other offers

Kellam Mechanical
757-430-0358



Mushroom Chicken

Colder weather means the comfort of warm food can't be beat. Especially when it takes less than 30 minutes to come together. We hope you enjoy this warm, cozy dish with your family!

Ingredients:

- 2 large chicken breasts, cut in half to make 4 thinner pieces
- Flour
- 2 tsp olive oil
- 3 tbsp butter
- 10 oz mushrooms
- 1 tbsp minced garlic
- 3/4 cup chicken broth
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Dredge the chicken in flour and pan fry it in the olive oil. Cook until done and remove from pan.
2. Add the butter to the pan with the mushrooms and garlic. Cook until the mushrooms are dry. Remove and add to the same plate as the chicken.
3. Reduce chicken broth for 5 minutes. Whisk in the cream and salt and pepper to taste.
4. Add the chicken and mushrooms back to the pan and cook until sauce has thickened.

Serve over rice or garlic mashed potatoes with roasted seasonal vegetables.



Can You Hear Me Now?

Technology makes it easy to stay tuned to your pocket-sized screen – but also much easier to tune out real conversations. By making an effort to improve your listening skills, you can build better, deeper relationships. Try these tips:

- Turn off or silence your phone – or leave it in another room – while at the table, in the car, or when talking to someone one-on-one.
- Listen with purpose. Pay attention to things such as body movement, tone of voice, or the meaning behind the words you hear. This helps put mental distractions aside.
- As you listen, don't think about what you're going to say next. You'll miss out on what others are actually saying, and you could be embarrassed if you have to ask them to repeat what they just said.



Fast Fix

Homes are made to be lived in, which means spills are inevitable. Be prepared with a four-step action plan: Soak up the spill with a towel. Pour club soda over the stain and let it sit. Step on the towel to absorb the liquid. Repeat until the stain has finally been removed.

PRE SEASON GAS SAFETY INSPECTION

*Furnace *Boiler *Water heater *Stove
*Fireplace *Dryer *Grill *Generator

So...you love your gas appliances? But, you've got to be careful. If not properly maintained, carbon monoxide leaks can be a silent killer.

Safety solution: Call Kellam Mechanical to schedule a trained technician to perform a thorough gas safety inspection of all your gas appliance piping to ensure a safe and warm winter season for your home...

Gas Safety Inspection...ONLY \$69 Safe Family...Priceless!

AND...take \$25 off carbon monoxide detector

Call **Kellam Mechanical** at **757-430-0358**

www.kellammechanical.com

Know someone who needs a gas safety inspection?

Tell 'em Kellam

*Limited to the first 45 callers and offer ends **11/30/21**

Healthy Fall Snacks

It's the season for pumpkins, but this seasonal vegetable has more value than meets the eye. Carving pumpkins is not just about creating fun or scary faces for the little costumed children in your neighborhood. It's also a way to create an incredibly delicious snack out of pumpkin seeds instead of throwing them away.

So roll up those carving sleeves and get ready to toast these tasty treats. By adding different flavors, you can turn your seeds into a tasty bite for the taste buds.

- **Turn up the heat.** Looking for something with a kick? Dazzle your seeds with spices such as smoked paprika, cumin or chili powder.
- **Sweeten the pot.** A touch of sugar with a hint of pumpkin pie spice can take a healthy edge off for anyone with a sweet tooth.
- **Pucker up.** Well, not exactly, but if you're looking for a touch of sour on your tastebuds, try a mix of brown sugar and steak seasoning. The sweet/sour mix will have you craving more.
- **Savor something savory.** Add a package of ranch dressing and a little bit of vegetable oil for more of a Tex-Mex style.

Start thinking about what tickles your fancy, or in this case, your taste buds. Pick your flavor, perfect your roasting technique, and enjoy a guilt-free fall snack!



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