

Brickley Plumbing & Electric, Inc.

Home Comfort News
Spring 2024



Alabama Radon: In Alabama, 15 counties have been identified as having the highest potential for elevated radon levels. They are Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Colbert, Coosa, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Morgan, Shelby and Talladega.

Most radon problems occur in homes from the entry of soil gases from soil beneath the home. Radon is generated in the soil beneath the home, and the suction exerted on permeable soil causes the radon to enter the home. A variety of methods are used to reduce radon in your home. In most cases, simple systems using pipes and fans. Such systems are called "sub-slab depressurization," and do not require major changes to your

Alabama Radon Zones



home. These systems remove radon gas from below the concrete floor and the foundation before it can enter the home. Similar systems can also be installed

in houses with crawl spaces. Radon contractors may use other methods or a combination of methods that may also work in your home. The right system depends on the design of your home and other factors. Radon reduction systems work. Some radon reduction systems can reduce radon levels in your home by up to 99 percent. Most homes can be fixed for about the same cost as other common home repairs. Your costs may vary depending on the size and design of your home and which radon reduction methods are needed. Lowering high radon levels requires technical knowledge and special skills. Choose a qualified radon mitigation contractor to fix your home. Start by checking with your state radon office. Many states require radon professionals to be licensed, certified, or registered.

Brickley Plumbing & Electric, Inc. is certificated with the American Association of Radon Scientist and Technologist and The National Radon Proficiency Program. We have been in the business of Radon Testing and Mitigation for over 22 years.

HVAC Spring Maintenance Tips: It's that time of year, when everyone in Alabama is really looking forward to the end of the cold season and excited for warmer days to come. Though it may not feel like it yet but summer will be just around the corner.

Mid-seasons is the best time to take care of your HVAC maintenance. As you turn off the furnace for the winter and prepare to turn the air conditioning on for the warmer months ahead, some simple upkeep is vital. Maintenance is key to getting the best performance and longest life out of your heating and cooling system. Failing to properly care for a new HVAC system can also put warranty coverage at risk.

Here are some easy steps for the early spring that any homeowner can take to keep their HVAC system in top condition.

Replace the HVAC Filter

Check for Air Leaks

Have Regular Maintenance Check Ups

Check Your Thermostat

Change Air Filter and Check Return

Allergy-Proofing Your Yard: Red eyes and runny nose again? Sinuses clogged? Here are a few tips for allergy-proofing your yard and gardening:

- ⇒ Plant with bright pretty flowers cause less allergy problems because they rely on insects to transfer the pollen.
- ⇒ Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants and wash them when you are finish in the garden.
- ⇒ Keep the yard and garden free of weeds such as ragweed, dock, and English plantain.
- ⇒ Protect your eyes with glasses or sunglasses.
- ⇒ Avoid gardening in the early morning or at sun-down when pollen counts are the highest.
- ⇒ If you are allergic to mold, avoid gardening after a good rain.

Plants to watch out for:

Male junipers, fruitless mulberries, seedless ashes, cotton-less cottonwoods, cypress and privet hedges, Bermuda grass, bluegrass, Artemisia, amaranth and sorrel.

Plumbing Tips for The Spring: Warm, temperate weather creates the ideal environment for home maintenance. Whether you are looking forward to an upcoming renovation or you simply want to ensure that your place doesn't flood during those spring showers, it's smart to add plumbing maintenance onto your to-do list. Inspecting and testing your water heaters, sump pumps, faucets, plumbing appliance, gutters, and downspouts, could help you to avoid issues like indoor flooding or mold and mildew growth. Follow these plumbing tips to make your home even better this spring.

Sump Pump - Remove any leaves or other debris that have fallen into the sump pit or that are blocking the discharge line and test your battery backup sump pump to make sure it also works correctly.

Check Your Water Heater for Corrosion -Water and oxygen can work together to cause rust that can corrode metal. Since water heaters store water, they are particularly prone to rust damage and could develop leaks over time. In the spring, check your water heater tanks thoroughly for corrosion. Inspect the entire exterior visible surface for rust or inconsistencies in the metal and pay close attention to the bottom of the tank. If you find problems, reach out to a plumber right away to evaluate the depth of the problem.

Keep an Eye out for Outdoor Leaks - Check your outdoor water spigots for leaks and monitor your sprinkler system during a cycle to look for irregular spray patterns. If you have a broken sprinkler head, the unit could spray water improperly, which could raise your usage and utility costs. Inspect outdoor garden hoses for physical damage to the lines or connectors, so they don't leak when you use them to water plants.



Watch for Leaks Indoors - Sometimes, leaks can form in places you never suspect, which can drive up your water usage for the month. It's important to be on the lookout for any signs of water accumulation or damage, so you can order repairs proactively.

Request Spring Plumbing Maintenance - Your plumbing system requires routine maintenance just like any other system in your home. Schedule plumbing maintenance as part of your spring cleaning to make sure everything is as it should be. During these visits, plumbers will check for everything from damaged or clogged drains to leaking faucets to make sure everything is working great.

If you want to keep your plumbing in great condition without any hassle, consider Plumbing Maintenance Care Package.

Upgrade Your Electrical Panel: Many older homes in the Jackson County area, are equipped with outdated electrical panels that may not adequately support the increasing electrical demands of modern appliances and technology and may need to have a panel upgrade by replacing inefficient panels with newer models that can handle higher electrical loads. This up-

grade ensures the safety and efficiency of your electrical system. By replacing your old panel with a new electrical panel you will be able to accommodate higher electrical loads, ensuring that your home can meet the demands of modern appliances and devices without overloading the system. The upgraded panel will also help improve electrical efficiency, potentially

leading to energy savings.

Finally, an upgraded panel enhances the safety of your home by reducing the risk of electrical fires and other electrical hazards associated with outdated panels. Upgrading your electrical panel is a proactive measure that improves safety, functionality, and potentially increases the value of your property.