

# HARRIS

"Comfort Year Round"

## Maximum Comfort News

[www.harriscomfort.com](http://www.harriscomfort.com)

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FROM OUR  
FAMILY TO YOURS

## Your Comfort Is Our Job

The home comfort industry has made enormous strides within the last few decades. Energy-efficient heating equipment, ductless mini-split systems, and Wi-Fi-enabled thermostats are only a few innovative pieces of technology improving your home comfort. But one constant that will never change, no matter how advanced technology becomes, is our dedication to you.

We are proud to offer our customers the most up-to-date technology, including new heat pumps and air conditioners, smart controls, or biofuel-ready heating systems. These advances make it easier for you to enjoy your home, using less energy to provide more comfort and lowering your heating and cooling costs.

Part of what sets us apart is that our team is always in training to keep up with these advances. We work directly with the manufacturers to learn the best way to install, program, troubleshoot, and maintain each new item, so that when a Harris Comfort technician comes to your door, you can be sure that they are prepared!

Our techs are not the only ones in training! Our office staff is kept current so that when you call, they can answer your questions. That is one of the ways we make sure to provide you with the best customer service possible. Our incomparable office team knows that at Harris Comfort, reliable customer service is "Priority Number One."

Another way we provide exceptional service is by filling our *Maximum Comfort News* with helpful and valuable information, like the articles in this issue:

- ✓ Clean, Green, Tune-up Machine
- ✓ Your Water Heater Needs Love Too!
- ✓ Generate Year-Round Safety and Security
- ✓ Is this the Year You Upgrade?
- ✓ Air Conditioning Refrigerants Are Changing – Again!
- ✓ Fire Safety is Family Safety
- ✓ And much more!



Thank you for being a valued customer. We will be here whenever you need us for all your home comfort services. Please visit us at [www.HarrisComfort.com](http://www.HarrisComfort.com) or call 215-968-7477 or 609-386-4658 to learn more about anything you read in the following pages. It is our pleasure to serve you.

Sincerely,

*David M. Harris*

David M. Harris  
President

## Clean, Green, Tune-Up Machine!

The days are getting shorter, the weather is getting crisper, and cold weather is on the horizon. Now is the time to schedule your fall heating tune-up before the cold weather takes hold! Tune-ups are an important part of maintaining your heating equipment. In addition to cleaning and testing vital components and improving energy efficiency, you can reduce heating costs and help prevent future breakdowns with annual maintenance!

During our preventative maintenance performance tune-up, our technicians will test for carbon monoxide leaks, clean the system elements, inspect the filtration and other systems, test for leaks, check the controls, and much more. One of the biggest benefits of annual maintenance is that it allows us to **find and fix small problems before they become big, expensive emergencies!**

The annual performance tune-ups provided by Harris Comfort will:

- Extend the life of your equipment
- Reduce fuel and/or utility bills
- Reduce breakdowns and repairs
- Provide a more comfortable home
- Protect your investments

If you have a service agreement with us, the tune-up will be provided at no additional charge, and we have more flexibility in early autumn to schedule the tune-up at your convenience, so you have nothing holding you back! Call us today at 215-968-7477 or 609-386-4658 or click on "Request Service" at [www.HarrisComfort.com](http://www.HarrisComfort.com) to schedule your annual tune-up.



# Is This The Year You Upgrade?



Last winter you kept your home just one step above “igloo” settings to use less fuel, because the year before you were concerned about every bill! Whether you use heating oil, propane, natural gas or even electricity to heat your home, costs are rising. Make this the year you upgrade to new, higher efficiency heating equipment. **Don't forget to ask us about available rebates and tax credits** you may be eligible for, too!

Many times, customers choose to repair an older system rather than replace it. We understand. Replacing your heating system is an investment. But there are times when repairing old equipment can end up costing you more!

**If it is time to replace your heating system, we can help you get the best equipment for your budget.** We will also help you find available manufacturer or trade rebates as well as tax credits up to \$2,000 and other incentives from the Inflation Reduction Act.

New heating equipment will use less energy to provide more heating, no matter if you use natural gas, propane, electric, or heating oil. The system will also work better – getting to your desired temperature and staying there more consistently.

So how do you know if it is time to upgrade? Here are some things to consider:

- **Did you use more energy than usual last year**, even if you tried to keep the thermostat low? Your heating system loses efficiency over time, even with regular maintenance.
- **Did your system break down frequently** last season? The older the equipment is, the more it will fail, leaving you in no-heat emergency situations.
- **Is your system more than 10 years old?** Technology has advanced so much in the last few years that even a 10-year-old boiler or furnace is outdated. The newer models include smart technology, system analytics, and advanced burner features, to provide higher levels of efficiency.
- **Have our service techs suggested that “it might be time?”** Please trust them! They are in your home, probably more often than you would like, if it is time for an upgrade. They work hard to keep your heating equipment running smoothly, but can also see when the end is near!
- **Is a pending repair going to cost almost as much as a new furnace or boiler?** If so, it is time to consider reaching for the new unit.



If you answered yes to one or more of the above points, give us a call. We can review your options, show you how much you can save each month in energy costs, and help you find low-interest financing. You'll be glad you did, when you enjoy the winter season and don't have to wear a parka indoors!

**JOIN US!**

## WE ARE HIRING!

Please share the news – we're hiring! We are looking to fill multiple positions, both in office staff and field staff. We stand by our employees and offer great benefits. If you know someone who is reliable, a team player, and eager to join a great company with growth opportunities, we want to talk to them. Maybe that someone is you! Please visit our website or call to learn more about our company and our openings.

# ATTICS AND CONFINED SPACES: CAN WE GET IN?

The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has very specific guidelines for confined spaces, such as attics, basements, and crawl spaces. They define a confined space as any area that meets the following three criteria:

- ✓ Is large enough for a worker to complete necessary jobs;
- ✓ Has limited or restricted means of entry or exit; and
- ✓ Is not designed for continuous occupancy.

If that space has certain hazardous conditions, it may require a permit to be issued before a worker can enter. While highly unlikely, our team could experience a situation where the worker would not be able to complete a service or installation because the area is set up in a way that would require a permit.

Even OSHA notes that this would be the exception in its fact sheet:



"The vast majority of the standard's requirements only apply to permit-required confined spaces, and attics, basements, and crawl spaces in a residential home – three common spaces – will not typically trigger these requirements." In many instances, an attic will not be considered a confined space because there is not limited or restricted means for entry and exit. Even when an attic is a confined space, they "would generally not be permit-required confined spaces because they typically do not contain the types of hazards or potential hazards that make a confined space a permit-required confined space."

OSHA does warn that extreme heat can be considered a serious physical hazard that could make it a permit-required confined space, and there are new rules under consideration to reduce heat illness and injury.

While we are always committed to your home comfort needs, our employees' safety comes first. If one of our team members determines that circumstances require a permit, please do not argue with them. We will not enter the attic or confined space until you have made any required alterations to the area and secured the necessary permit. In the summer, if the team has been working in your attic, crawl space, basement, or on the roof, and you see them stopping for water and shade breaks, please understand that they are ensuring there are no accidents while at your home. If you have any questions about these regulations, you may call our office at any time.

## Truly Local and Truly Neighbors

There are a lot of companies out there claiming to be "local" and community driven but are not. Many of them were sold off in the last few years to bigger operations. The company names were left on the trucks and invoices, but the owner is a corporation with multiple so-called "local" companies under its umbrella.

Once that happens, a lot of the local values start slipping. Customers start complaining about surprising price hikes on fuel costs or service contracts, changes to the terms of agreements, and staff that no longer put the customer first. Those companies have lost the traditions and history that made them special.

We are truly local and have been part of the community for decades. Our office team, field staff, and sales representatives are your neighbors and friends from the surrounding area. We go to the same schools, shop in the same stores, and belong to the same civic organizations. Your concerns are our concerns, and have been for a long, long time. That is what "truly local" means.



**Seasonal Holiday Wishes:** With the holiday season quickly approaching, we want to take this time to wish you and your family the happiest and healthiest of holidays. It's an important time of year and we like to reflect on the things that matter most, like you! Whichever of the upcoming holidays you celebrate, however you celebrate them, and with whomever you celebrate, please know that our thoughts are with you. Thank you for sharing another year with us.

# Air Conditioning Refrigerants Are Changing – Again!

New EPA regulations are requiring all air conditioners and refrigeration equipment produced after January 1, 2025, to use a new refrigerant that has a lower Global Warming Potential (GWP) than the R410A currently in use. Equipment manufactured before January 1, 2025 can be installed only through December 31, 2026.

## If you were thinking about upgrading your central air conditioning system, don't wait! Call us.

When air conditioning was first commercialized and available for homes, R-12 was the refrigerant of choice. The damage to the ozone layer that was discovered in the 1960s and 1970s was traced to R-12 and similar products with high Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP) and high Global Warming Potential (GWP). Ozone was seen as the bigger concern, and the industry moved to R-22, which had a lower ozone depletion potential but a high global warming potential, and then to R-410A, which has no ozone depletion potential but still a higher global warming potential.

In 2023, the EPA passed new regulations for low GWP refrigerants for all cooling systems manufactured after January 1, 2025. The new refrigerants, R-454B or R32, have no ODP and a low GWP. Most major manufacturers of central air conditioners and mini-split heat pumps will be using R-454B in new equipment.

As with any mandated change in technology, the new equipment comes with a much higher cost, and **we cannot simply replace your old refrigerant with the new. Do not let anyone tell you otherwise. Using R-454B in a system made for R-410A is a fire hazard.**

**The good news is that R-410A-cooled systems are still available for the rest of 2024, and the supply of R-410A is not being hampered at this time. So, if you were unhappy with your old air conditioning system this summer, do not wait until next year to upgrade. We do not know what the supply will be at that time, and your choices may be limited.**

The transition from R-22 to R-410A began with the 2015 Montreal Protocol, which was revised the following year with the Kigali Amendment to phase out R-410A to a non-hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) product. In 2020, the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act was signed mandating the EPA to reduce the production of HFCs by 85% by 2035 and lowering the GWP standard, which is where the new refrigerants come in!

Who knows what regulations will be coming next! But, **since there is no expiration date on producing or using R-410A**, the current refrigerant, you can get a new air conditioner today and use it for decades. **Call us today** to talk about your air conditioning needs. We can install a current system quickly and at the right price!



## Fire Safety is Family Safety

October is National Fire Prevention Month, and the entire holiday season is filled with wonderful traditions that can also cause house fires, from frying turkeys to cozy fireplaces to lit candles on furniture or in windows. Please keep your home and family safe.



### Winter Fire Safety:

- Half of all home heating fires occur December through February, 1-in-7 home fires and 1-in-5 home fire deaths involves heating equipment.
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source, like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, or space heaters.
- Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and as far from your home as possible.
- Plug only 1 heat producing appliance, like a space heater, into an electrical outlet at a time.
- Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container that you keep outside, at least 10 feet from your home and any other buildings.



### Holiday Fire Safety:

- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve; Christmas is the peak day for candle fires!
- Don't leave cooking unattended. Stay in the kitchen when pots are on the stove, and in the house when the oven is on.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of reach of children.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns.
- Consider using battery-operated, flameless candles, and don't ever leave children alone with lit candles.
- Read manufacturer's instructions for the maximum number of light strands to connect.
- Keep Christmas trees at least 3 feet from heat sources – more than 1-in-5 Christmas tree fires were caused by being too close to a heat source.
- A dry tree can burn very hot and very fast. Keep trees well-watered and remove after Christmas or when dry.

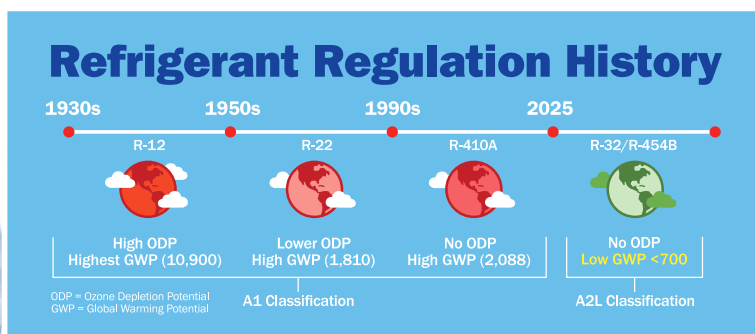


### General Fire Safety

- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.
- Change batteries twice a year. You can use the Winter and Summer solstices as reminders – or do it now, if you haven't in a while.
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents each year.

If you think there might be a gas leak, get everyone out of the house before calling us and the fire department, and if you have an oil-heated system and there is a strong smell or soot around your equipment, call us immediately for emergency service. If you have any other concerns about your heating system, please give us a call.

**This is a season of warmth.**  
**Let it also be a season of safety!**





## Generate Year-Round Safety and Security

Blizzards, ice and sleet storms, and heavy winds are going to hit in a month or two, just as hurricane season ends. As the TV news anchors drone on about the next “storm of the century,” take action and contact us about an emergency back-up generator!

### You might want a whole-home generator if:

- \* Your home loses power frequently
- \* You work from home
- \* You have children
- \* You live with a senior citizen
- \* You have medical equipment in the home
- \* You don't like throwing out rotten food
- \* You want to stay connected to the world outside
- \* You want to protect your home and property
- \* You don't like walking around in the dark
- \* You NEED your morning coffee or tea
- \* You can only take so much of board games by flashlight
- \* Sundown hasn't meant bedtime since grade school
- \* Your grandparents never taught you to cook in the fireplace
- \* “When is the power coming back?” has become a dangerous question



Whether you want to power up the entire house or a few essential appliances, Harris Comfort has the right generator at the right price. Our generators will turn on automatically as soon as the power is cut, and shut off when it is restored.

Don't suffer through another power outage. Contact Harris Comfort at 215-968-7477 or 609-386-4658 or visit [www.harriscomfort.com](http://www.harriscomfort.com) to learn more about our generators and schedule a no-obligation consultation.

## Warm Up with a One-Hour Turkey Chili

This chili is quick and easy, whether cooked in your instant pot or on your stovetop. Taking only an hour or less, it is a great choice for weekends, game days, unexpected company, or simply because it is so delicious.

### Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 pound ground dark-meat turkey
- 1 large white onion, cut into ¼-inch pieces (2 cups), divided
- 1 large poblano chili, seeds and ribs removed, cut into ½-inch pieces (1 cup)
- 3 cloves garlic, minced (1 tablespoon)
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 can (28 ounces) diced tomatoes
- 1 can (15 ounces) chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1 cup frozen corn kernels
- Shredded Monterey Jack cheese, cilantro leaves, and sliced jalapeno, for serving



### Directions

**Step 1:** Heat oil in a 6-quart multicooker set to the high “Sauté” setting. Add turkey, breaking up meat with the back of a spoon, until cooked through, 4 to 5 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer to a paper towel-lined plate to drain. Add 1-3/4 cups onion, poblano, garlic, 2 teaspoons salt, and 1/2 teaspoon pepper to multicooker; cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are softened, 6 to 8 minutes. Add chili powder, cumin, and tomato paste; cook 2 minutes. Stir in tomatoes, chickpeas, corn, cooked turkey, and 1 cup water. Secure lid of multicooker.

**Step 2:** Cook on high “Bean/Chili” setting for 20 minutes. Once time is complete, allow pressure to release naturally. Carefully remove lid. Adjust seasoning as desired. Serve with remaining 1/4 cup onion, cheese, cilantro, and jalapeno. To store, let chili cool to room temperature, then refrigerate in airtight containers up to 3 days.

**On the Stove:** This chili is equally delicious made on the stovetop. Instead of simmering on the “Bean/Chili” setting, cook in a large pot or Dutch oven, partially covered, over medium-low heat for 30 minutes. Reserve chickpeas and corn to stir in during the last 5 minutes of cooking.

Recipe courtesy of: <https://www.marthastewart.com/1530924/instant-pot-turkey-chili>

## Want more information?

Simply complete the form below and send it back to us.

Name (first, middle initial, last) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## I'd like more information on:

(check all applicable)

- Indoor Air Quality Solutions
- Programmable Thermostats
- Heating Equipment Replacements
- Maintenance Plans
- Cooling System Upgrades
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

# Maximum Comfort News

FALL 2024



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## Your Water Heater Needs Love Too

Your water heater can last for 10-to-20 years, depending on the style, but only if you treat it with the same level of care as you give your other heating and cooling equipment. Harris Comfort is ready with service agreements, annual maintenance, and new units when it is time for an upgrade.

If you have a service agreement, we will give your water heater a tune-up at the same time as your boiler or furnace tune-up.

The water heater maintenance will include flushing the system, checking and changing the anode rod, inspecting for rust and leaks, and testing and adjusting the thermostat. We will make sure you are ready for the hot showers and extra loads of laundry that are part of winter!

If you don't have a water heater service plan with Harris Comfort yet, call us today at 215-968-7477 or 609-386-4658!



## REMINDER:

### **Please Clear a Path!**

Please remember to shovel your driveway and walks and clear a path to your fuel tank or fill pipe! Our drivers and technicians may not be able to provide needed service if we cannot safely get on your property. Most towns require shoveling by law, and it will keep your postal carriers, delivery drivers, visitors, and first responders safe, too! But please remember – your health and safety come first – so let us know if there are specific reasons you cannot shovel and we will plan your service or delivery call accordingly.

