

(NAPSA)—Sealing a home to keep the cold air out can also keep airborne contaminants in. That's why it's important for homeowners to get their heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system cleaned—before they shut their windows for the season.



The following tips can help homeowners determine if their air ducts need to be cleaned:

1. Remove the register from the floor or wall vent.

2. Insert a mirror into the duct and hold it at a 45-degree angle.

3. Shine a flashlight straight into the mirror.

If you see accumulated dust, mold or mildew, it may be time to call an HVAC system cleaning contractor. It's a good idea to use a company that's a certified member of the National Air Duct Cleaners Association (NADCA). The group tests the knowledge of contractors for safe and effective HVAC system cleaning.

For more information or a list of certified HVAC system cleaning companies, write to NADCA, 1518 K Street, N.W., Suite 503, Washington, DC 20005 or visit www.nadca.com.