



# Connected

## Don't Let Defective Ductwork Do Damage to Your Utility Budget

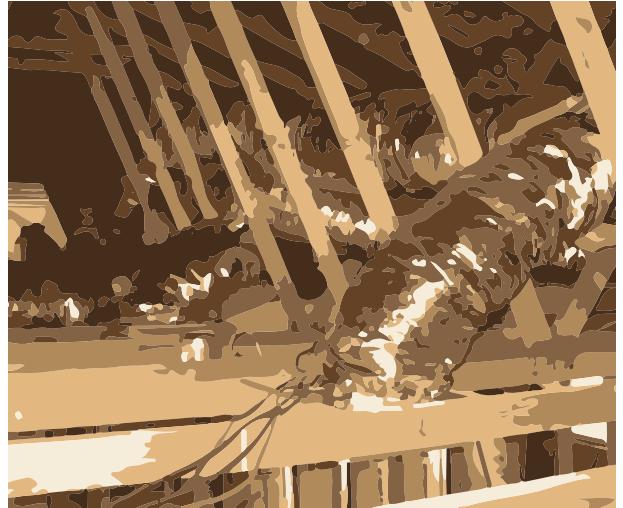
### Four Clear-Cut Steps for Getting a Handle on Unnecessarily High Heating and Cooling Costs

Your HVAC system is one of the biggest investments you have in your home, and one that's vital to your everyday comfort. But what if you're not feeling so comfortable because of stuffy, dusty rooms and big utility bills each month? The culprit could be hiding in your walls — defective ducts reducing your system's efficiency by as much as 20 percent.

Along with ensuring a consistent optimal temperature, properly functioning ducts also promote better indoor air quality by reducing fumes from household chemicals and gas appliances that release combustion gases, such as carbon monoxide, through their venting systems. Leaks in ductwork may cause the gasses to be drawn back into the living space instead of funneled outdoors.

Reduce the needless strain on your air conditioning and heating units, your budget, and your wellbeing by getting your ducts in good working order. Here are four effective ways to fix underperformers:

- ✦ Detect and straighten kinks in flexible ductwork that are restricting airflow.
- ✦ Seal air leaks in all ductwork with mastic sealant or metal tape. Do not use duct tape, which is not durable.



- ✦ Ensure connections are well-sealed at vents and registers.
- ✦ Insulate ductwork in all unheated areas, such as attics and crawlspaces.

Contact a heating and cooling professional for a thorough inspection or to correct extensive ductwork damage.

For more tips on reducing your utility bills, visit the Marietta Power and Water website at [www.mariettopowerandwater.com](http://www.mariettopowerandwater.com). 💧

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# 10 Tips for Powering Through a Power Outage with Ease

Marietta Power and Water's top goal is to provide you with reliable service every day. Some days are a bit more challenging than others when extreme weather conditions strike. In the event of a power outage, you can feel confident that we will work hard to restore your power as quickly as possible.

Should you experience a service disruption, here are 10 tips to help minimize the inconvenience:

1. Place flashlights all through the house and maintain an adequate supply of fresh batteries.
2. Keep a battery-operated radio handy for updated weather reports.
3. Have a fully-charged cell phone nearby at all times.
4. Stock snacks that do not require refrigeration, such as dried fruit, crackers and protein bars.
5. If your home has an alternative heating source, such as a wood stove or fireplace, maintain an adequate supply of wood throughout the cold months.
6. Store extra blankets and quilts in an easily accessible location.
7. Do not open the refrigerator door at all, if possible. A refrigerator keeps food at a safe temperature for up to four hours during a power outage if unopened. A freezer can maintain its temperature up to 48 hours, depending on how full it is.
8. Maintain backup generators according to manufacturers' recommendations and store an ample supply of fuel in a safe place.
9. Disconnect appliances and electronics that were in use when the power went out. After power is restored, wait 10 or 15 minutes before gradually turning them back on — this will protect your devices and avoid overloading the power system.
10. Make the most of the downtime by spending quality time with family chatting or playing games.

For more tips, visit the Marietta Power and Water website at [www.mariettagov.com](http://www.mariettagov.com). 💧

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## Calendar

### Wednesday, March 13

"The Right Plant, in the Right Place, The Right Way"

Mountain View Regional Library  
6:30 p.m.

For more information call  
(770) 528-4070.

### Friday, March 22

Easter Egg Scramble

Laurel Park  
6 p.m.

For information call (770) 794-5601.

### Sunday, April 28

Taste of Marietta

Glover Park in Marietta Square  
11 a.m.

For more information visit [www.marietta.com/taste-of-marietta](http://www.marietta.com/taste-of-marietta) or call (770) 429-1115.

Marietta Power and Water will be closed on Friday, March 29 in observance of Good Friday.

For a complete list of City of Marietta events, please visit [www.mariettagov.com](http://www.mariettagov.com) and click on Calendar of Events.

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