

Consumer Guide to Air Duct Cleaning

or How to NOT get ripped off by the Blow-N-Go companies.

This guide is for the benefit of many consumers who realize they need to have their HVAC system cleaned but do not know where to start or where to go for help.

Air Duct Cleaning is a done by a specialty contractor

So right there, you know they must be licensed &

Insured ... make sure that the contractor is licensed for HVAC ..this is your homes' comfort system that they are dealing with. You don't want some "carpet cleaner" with some new money making gadget Get Educated!!

FYI ... Air Duct Cleaning is never \$59 - \$189, that's a bait & switch deal from the first word..Buyer Beware.

- * #1) You need to know what to expect to have a service company come to your home & clean your HVAC system...Cost & process are important! So is consumer education.
- * #2) You must find a company with a good track record for providing service.
- * #3) On-line ratings are helpful and easy to review

Read on for the answers to these points before you commit to a cleaning project with anybody!!

#1 Where to go for Education or Help to choose a company



Figure 1, typical Attic system found in Pensacola, FL

You don't want to tackle this kind of job without the proper tools & equipment. You, the homeowner, certainly would not if you aren't trained in how HVAC systems' work. So your contractor should be also... and Specialists are the best. Think IAQ ~ that's Indoor Air Quality

GO to NADCA.com to find out about how a job is estimated, scheduled, and performed as well as the standards for cleaning (ACR 2013 is the tell all document - it's a free download) there is tons of information on this site, all of it related to cleaning an HVAC system... This is from NADCA '**The Association for Inspection, Maintenance, & Restoration of HVAC systems**'. This Association has a certification for qualified technicians, a 'Code of Ethics' for member companies, and a great consumer awareness program...the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section of their website is a huge resource in itself and is definitely worth the visit!

#2 Companies with good Track records



All the best business owners of any business category are always associated with the Better Business Bureau. This gives the consumer a way to assure that they will be dealt with on a fair & honest playing field in the Marketplace. The BBB rates companies & also gives Awards' for Ethics to the top rated companies.

Check out BBB.org in your local area

#3 On-line ratings...

Who doesn't "Google" any company before they hire them these days?

Google places



If you know the name of a local company that has a good BBB rating ... just put it in the search bar... any company that has an online presence will also have a "Google places page"... you can find out about their employees, read reviews, and get to know where they are located with the 'places page' map feature. Remember the company may be outside the search parameters for a specific city.

(ex. "Gulf Breeze" companies do not show up in a "Pensacola" search)

Angie's list
www.angieslist.com/review



Angie's List is another great site for reviews, this costs' the consumer a nominal fee to find out who the best companies are...but you can bet the ratings carry a lot of weight by discerning consumers who pay to give their opinions.

Check sites like **Yelp**, or **Local.Yahoo.com** or even the **online yellow pages (yp.com)** has a star rating system



now!!!

Don't forget to visit the **local Chamber of Commerce** website in the city where the company is located; this will give insight into their local involvement... You'll learn info about Charitable Activities, their commitment to the local community & its people, as well as the local economy...Buying "**Local**" is always better than spending your money with some national company that will send its revenue out of the area.

Remember, Get Educated or you could Get Burned.

If you ever need any advice about any Indoor Air Quality service like 'HVAC Inspection, Maintenance, or Restoration' feel free to request our opinion in a free consultation (850) 934-2768 or [Gulf Coast Air care.com](http://GulfCoastAirCare.com) or look for our other online consumer guides.