



**Ken  
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## Mini Split Cleanliness

Now that mini split heat pumps have been gaining popularity, a few interesting service problems have appeared. It is always a rather delicate situation for professionals to work inside someone's home. We make every effort to contain any dirt we create and go to great lengths to create as little as possible. There isn't really much dirt created indoors by the installation of a mini split heat pump. Just usually one hole drilled through the wall for the copper lines and electric and a few for anchoring of the unit. The rest is outside where dirt is much less of a problem. Depending on the location of the indoor unit(s) some furniture may need to be moved to gain access to the wall unit. These units have permanent electrostatic air filters which should be checked monthly. They are easy to clean just by running them under a faucet and drying them off. Their filtration is very good but not everything gets trapped by them. Whatever passes by ends up either on the fins of the evaporator coil or on the vanes of the fan. Both of those places will eventually cause a reduction in the capacity of the unit. I recently had some work done at my home and one unit was running during that work. I was shocked at how much dirt there was inside the unit when I checked afterward. The way these units regulate themselves is by measuring the temperature of the indoor coil and keeping it at a constant low temperature for the air to flow over and cool or heat. If the air is not moving fast enough the system still holds that coil at the same temperature but you don't get enough heating or cooling. It isn't a mechanical problem, it is an airflow problem. When proper airflow is restored, so is the capacity of the unit. Some of the units we service after a few years in operation are clogged badly. There is not an easy way to clean them either. We use a backpack sprayer and an attachment that allows the water and dirt to be contained in a bucket. It is not acceptable to get the wall or the floor wet but it takes a lot of water and a lot of pressure to clean a clogged unit. Keeping it clean or cleaning it frequently is a much better option. This service procedure will get expensive over time and will probably be the biggest complaint people have about these units. Second only to problems with the electronics and waiting for parts. So keep them clean and if it seems like they are struggling, cleaning may solve the problem.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email [Ken@FieldsService.com](mailto:Ken@FieldsService.com)

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## National Park Service is Ready to Welcome Summer Visitors

By Delaware Water Gap NRA

BUSHKILL, PA- Employees at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area have been busy gearing up and getting facilities ready for a busy summer season. The 70,000-acre national park unit in PA and NJ and was the 17th most-visited national park unit in the country in 2022 with 4.2 million visits recorded.

"The park sees significantly higher visitation in the summer compared to any other season," says Zach Piotrowski, outdoor recreation planner. "To have the most fun when visiting the park, visitors should plan ahead, pack their patience, and always have a backup activity planned. Being flexible is especially important on weekends when the park is busiest and popular sites fill early in the day." Learn how to Plan Like a Park Ranger by visiting the park's website for tips.

Get information online, by phone, or in person:

Visit the park website at [www.nps.gov/dewa](http://www.nps.gov/dewa).

Follow us on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/DelWaterGap-NPS](http://www.Facebook.com/DelWaterGap-NPS).

Call the information desk at (570) 426-2452 during business hours.

Dingmans Falls Visitor Center is open to the public from 9 am to 4:30 pm, Saturdays and Sundays from May 25 until June 9, including Memorial Day. The visitor center will be open Wednesdays through Mondays from June 10 to September 2.

Take a Hike: With approximately 150 miles of trails in the park, including 28 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, there is a trail for everyone. Whether an avid hiker or just starting out, visit the park website for maps, directions to, and information on hiking trails.

Some trails, including waterfall trails and the trails to the tops of Mt. Tammany and Mt. Minsi, are very busy and are crowded on weekends. Parking areas for popular trails often fill very early in the day during the busy summer season. Rangers suggest visitors arrive early and have a few backup activities planned for different destinations in the park in case the area they would like to visit is already at capacity when they arrive.

Cool Off In, or On, the River: Boat launches are available at Milford Beach, Dingmans Access, Bushkill Access, Smithfield Beach, and Kittatinny Point. Swim areas are open at Milford Beach and Smithfield Beach. A \$10/car fee is charged 7 days a week. Annual passes are available for \$45. Call the visitor information desk at (570) 426 – 2452 for information on where passes can be purchased.

Pitch a Tent: Make reservations well in advance as campsites and campgrounds are in high demand during the summer months. A complete list of campgrounds, river campsites, and regulations is available on the park's website.

Dingmans Campground is located on the banks of the Delaware River and offers tent and RV sites. For more information or to make a reservation, visit their website at [DingmansCampground.com](http://DingmansCampground.com) or call (570) 828-1551.

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Pick a Place to Picnic: Whether you're packing a picnic basket or planning a barbecue, it's important to know where you can picnic and where you cannot before you pack the kitchen sink. Grills are not provided anywhere in the park, but visitors may bring their own grill to one of the following designated picnic areas:

Milford Beach, Smithfield Beach, Toms Creek Picnic Area, Bushkill General Store Picnic Area, and Hialeah Picnic Area