



7 Tips for a happy and healthy HVAC.

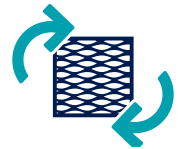


Did you know the cost to replace an air conditioner could be over \$5,418? HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) systems are one of the most important systems in your home. Not only does your HVAC system keep your home comfortable during the summer and winter months, but it also helps you maintain healthy indoor air quality. Here are some tips to help you maintain a healthy HVAC system and avoid an unexpected breakdown.

1

Change your filters regularly.

Changing your air conditioner, furnace and/or heat pump filters regularly (once a month if possible) will minimize energy costs and prolong the life of your HVAC equipment. The higher the MERV rating on the filter, the more pollutants that will be kept out of your ductwork and your home.



2

Schedule seasonal HVAC maintenance.



Schedule professional maintenance to be performed on your A/C before the cooling season begins, and again on your furnace before the heating season. Cleaning your evaporator and condenser coils once or twice a year will ensure you maintain an efficient system and prolong your equipment.

3

Clean your vents and ducts.

Clean your vents, ducts and registers regularly (at least annually) to help them circulate clean air as efficiently as possible and prevent the spread of pollutants within your home. Make sure your vents are clear from obstructions or furniture that might prevent them from functioning properly.



4

Remove debris.



Remove debris, such as leaves, pollen and twigs weekly during spring, summer and fall from top and sides of outdoor air-conditioning units and heat pumps. Don't allow the lawn mower to discharge grass clippings onto the unit.

5

Keep pets away.

Dogs have a habit of marking their territories. When they mark on air conditioning units, the urine can damage interior components resulting in unnecessary repair costs. Place a small fence around your air conditioning unit to keep your dog away. Just make sure to install the fence at least a foot from the unit or you could negatively impact its performance.



6

Leave your vents open.



Closing your vents or registers can cause air pressure problems for your ducts, and closed vents can lead to irregular airflow and increase the risk of costly breakdowns. To avoid potential issues, leave the vents open in all rooms, even when you aren't using them.

7

Schedule an efficiency test.

Schedule an efficiency test or an energy audit to identify how your system is performing and if it has leaks. Since overworked units are much more likely to break down, you want yours running as efficiently as possible. When you schedule an HVAC inspection ask the technician to perform an efficiency test or an energy audit.

