

Furnace Maintenance and Troubleshooting Tips

- The very first step for any maintenance is ensuring your safety. Be sure before performing any maintenance that the furnace/heating system is powered off. There are often disconnect switches attached to the furnace that will disable all power to the furnace. Or, you can simply turn off the electrical breaker to the appliance.
- In older furnaces, there will be a standing pilot light, if your furnace doesn't fire, check to ensure the pilot light is operational.
- If your furnace is not powering on, make sure the electrical breaker is not tripped or that a fuse is not blown.
- Change your furnace filters monthly. If your furnace starts to cycle and then quickly turns off, it can be a result of lack of air flow. If a furnace filter is very clogged it can inhibit the air flow to a degree that the furnace will not operate. It is also important to note that proper air flow equals a more efficient and longer lasting furnace.
- Ensure that cold air returns and supply registers are not covered by floor coverings or furniture. Again, proper air flow is key to a properly functioning, efficient, and long-lasting furnace.
- Be sure your thermostat has power. Many digital thermostats require battery power, if your heating system is not producing heat, double check the battery in the thermostat.
- Schedule regular maintenance. If you wait until your heating system has an issue to call a professional, you might find yourself without heat on the coldest day, when you need it the most. Annual maintenance is recommended, the system should be cleaned and properly tuned to ensure peak performance. Regular maintenance will extend the life of the heating system and potentially prevent the need for expensive repairs.
- Learn about the warranty that came with the heating and cooling systems in your home. Details to pay attention to include the period of coverage and the types of repairs the warranty covers. Keep in mind that if the previous homeowners failed to hire a licensed professional to complete annual maintenance on newer HVAC equipment or failed to hire a professional to perform certain repairs, they may have accidentally voided the warranty.