

Air Conditioner Maintenance

Summer is really here now with hot and humid days. For those of you fortunate to have air conditioning, don't forget the regular maintenance on your air conditioning unit (either window, free standing, or central) which will assure you of peak performance, better efficiency, and cost you less to operate saving \$\$\$\$\$. With proper maintenance your air conditioning unit could last up to 15 years.

FOR BEST AIR CONDITIONER EFFICIENCY

- Check all of the hose connections making sure that there are no leaks and that the condensation tube can drain freely.
- If you have central air – change or clean the furnace filter once a month during the cooling season. Remember that there is dust, pollen and allergens circulating in our air that can full up that filter.
- Clean the outside of the compressor unit by spraying with a hose. Make sure that there are no clippings, leaves, or debris stuck to the compressor making it work harder and costing you more.
- For central air units, keep the shrubs at least one foot away for adequate airflow around the entire unit.
- Inside – vacuum your registers and air vents regularly.
- Have the ductwork professionally cleaned every few years.
- Keep furniture and drapes from obstructing the registers.
- Don't forget the annual tune-up by a professional which could cut your cooling costs by 5%.

NO AIR CONDITIONER? TRY THESE SUGGESTIONS

- Plant a tree – yes it takes time to grow, but it is the best cooling investment you can make. Ask your landscape nursery to recommend the best location for your lot and varieties that will grow more quickly to provide shade.
- Use floor or ceiling fans to circulate air throughout the house
- Install a whole-house fan which can lower the indoor temperature by ten degrees in a few minutes
- Make sure the attic is properly vented with ridge and soffit or gable vents.
- During the hottest part of the day, close the blinds or drapes on the sunny side of the house.
- Turn the lights off – they generate heat.
- Wait into late evening to use heat-producing appliances (dishwasher, clothes dryer, oven)

For more info on saving energy with heating and air conditioning:

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