

HOW TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR FURNACE



The lifespan of a well-maintained furnace ranges from 15-20 years. If you want to keep yours running efficiently and effectively for this long follow these simple steps.



Seasonal Maintenance

Routine seasonal maintenance on your HVAC components checks to ensure your system is working at peak performance. Your HVAC technician will check the burners and the blower wheel. They will also look for wear and tear on components to determine if they need tightening, repairing, or replacing.

Your HVAC technician will also inspect the heat exchanger to ensure the temperature rise is within optimal range to protect your system from overheating.



Change Your Filters

You can have one of the biggest impacts on the lifespan of your furnace with this simple DIY. Routinely checking, cleaning, or replacing your filters will allow the air to flow easily through your system reducing the strain on your furnace's motor.

A seasoned HVAC technician will be able to recommend the best filter for your system. Ask yours on their next visit if you haven't done so already.



Don't Restrict Air Flow - Keep Your Vents Open and Free of Clutter

Static pressure is the resistance to airflow in ductwork. If the balance of static pressure is off – either too much or too little - premature system failure and energy inefficiency problems will occur. Closed or blocked vents will restrict air flow causing the blower motor to work harder to push more air.

Make sure your vents are open, clean, and larger furniture is more than 18 inches away from air vents. Don't store items around the furnace so it can breathe. And resist placing items on top of ductwork in order to prevent breakage.



Maintain Your Ductwork

You can lose as much as 30% of heated air through your ductwork. Not only can dust, dirt, and grime from your ducts get blown into your home causing indoor air quality issues, it can also restrict air flow making your furnace work harder.

Cleaning your ducts will remove debris allowing air to flow smoothly. Clean ducts will also help the heat exchanger, the blower motor, and the evaporator coil stay clean.

Cracks and holes can develop overtime in the ductwork. These openings allow air to escape making it harder to get the warm air to the areas it is designed to go. These cracks and holes are often discovered during the cleaning process.



Winterize Your Home

Keeping the cold air out of your home puts less pressure on your furnace. You can ease the workload by insulating your home. You will want to check the following:

- **Attic** – check for adequate insulation
- **Doors** – add weather stripping and/or door sweeps
- **Windows** – caulk, add weather stripping and/or heavy curtains
- **Fireplace** – close the flue when not in use



Keep A Consistent Temperature

How hard your furnace works has a direct correlation to how long it will last. Keeping a consistent temperature (within 5-10 degrees) in your home will allow your system to work at optimal levels. Reducing temperatures more than 10 degrees will cause your system to work overtime to bring temperatures back up to comfortable levels.

Installing a programmable or Smart thermostat will allow you to drop the temperature a few degrees while you are away or in rooms that aren't in use helping to reduce your energy bill. You can also program it in reverse so that your home is warm and toasty for when you walk in the door.



Utilize Ceiling Fans

Running a ceiling fan along with your furnace can lower your winter energy bills by as much as 15%.

[Energy Star](#) recommends "in the winter, reverse the motor and operate the ceiling fan at low speed in the clockwise direction. This produces a gentle updraft, which forces warm air near the ceiling down into the occupied space."