

Air Conditioning Problems?

WHAT TO DO BEFORE CALLING YOUR HVAC COMPANY

In the summer heat, we retreat indoors for cool, clean air. But when your central air conditioner stops working and heat follows you inside, what should you do? We know no one likes to pick up the phone and suffer needless costs for maintenance tasks you can complete on your own time.

This is why we've put together a list of common air conditioning problems to look for before calling your HVAC company to service your broken air conditioner because, in fact, it may not be "broken" after all.

TROUBLESHOOTING COMMON AIR CONDITIONING PROBLEMS

1 THE THERMOSTAT

Is your thermostat on the right setting? Check the mode and set it in "cool" or "cooling." Turn your fan to auto. Ensure the temperature on your thermostat is set at least 8 degrees cooler than the temperature in your house. If all else fails, change the batteries.

2 THE AIR FILTERS

Check your air filters for accumulation of dirt and dust. Sometimes airflow becomes restricted, leading to ice forming on the coils of your air conditioner and suboptimal airflow.

3 THE AIR VENTS

Airflow problems are sometimes as simple as blocked vents on the floor or the walls. Clear the air vents of clothing and furniture that may have been accidentally moved on top of the vents.

4 THE SWITCHES

Check the switch on the inside of the unit. It should resemble a regular light switch. If the air conditioning unit resides in the attic, storing items or shuffling around in a crawl space can flip these switches off. Check the air conditioner's circuit breaker in the electric box. Make sure it has not tripped. If it has tripped reset it one time to see if the air conditioner will come on. Be sure that the breaker is not flipped in the "off" position.

5 STANDING WATER IN DRAIN PAN

Water standing in the emergency drain pan will cause the unit to shut off. When the pan is full the unit shuts off. Clear the water with a shop vacuum. Then, call your air conditioning repair company to schedule cleaning and treating of the drain to eliminate algae buildup, or else this problem will occur again. If left alone too long, this problem could potentially result in hundreds if not thousands of dollars in damage.

WHEN TO CALL YOUR HVAC COMPANY RIGHT AWAY

The maintenance items above may be performed by most homeowners. Yet if you ever feel uncomfortable or unsafe, stop and contact a professional.

Other items are suited for professionals only. For example, never try electrical repairs unless you are trained or a licensed electrician. Never try to add or remove refrigerant from your unit. Dirty outside coils should not be washed off. The outside units contain high voltage and washing an outside unit with water can cause expensive damage, personal injury or death. Finally, if the breaker is tripping and won't stay set, call your HVAC company.

Have a question about your air conditioning unit or a problem you can't solve yourself? Contact our technicians.

Contact A
Technician

