



# FIRST N FOREMOST NEWSLETTER

July, 07, 2023

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## HVAC UNIT LIFESPAN AND MAINTENANCE TIPS

HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) systems play a vital role in maintaining indoor comfort and air quality. The lifespan of an HVAC unit can vary depending on various factors, including the brand, model, usage, maintenance, and environmental conditions. On average, a well-maintained HVAC system can last between 15 to 25 years. However, regular maintenance is essential to prolong its lifespan and ensure optimal performance. Here are some maintenance tips to keep your HVAC system in top condition:

**Regular Filter Replacement:** Clean or replace the air filters every 1 to 3 months, or as recommended by the manufacturer. Clogged filters reduce airflow and strain the system, leading to inefficiency and potential damage.

**Keep Outdoor Unit Clear:** Ensure that the outdoor unit is free from debris, vegetation, and obstructions. Trim any nearby shrubs or plants to maintain proper airflow around the unit.

**Clean Condenser Coils:** Schedule annual cleaning of the condenser coils to remove dirt, dust, and debris. Dirty coils restrict heat transfer and reduce efficiency.

**Check and Clean Air Ducts:** Periodically inspect the air ducts for any leaks, damage, or blockages. Clean the ducts if excessive dust or debris is present.

**Lubricate Moving Parts:** Lubricate the HVAC system's moving parts, such as motors and bearings, as recommended by the manufacturer. Proper lubrication reduces friction and extends component lifespan.

**Check Thermostat Settings:** Verify that the thermostat settings are accurate and calibrated correctly. Consider installing a programmable thermostat for better energy efficiency and comfort control.

**Schedule Professional Maintenance:** Arrange annual maintenance visits by a qualified HVAC technician. They will inspect, clean, and tune-up the system to identify any potential issues and ensure optimal performance.



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**Monitor System Performance:** Pay attention to any unusual noises, odors, or changes in cooling or heating performance. If you notice any issues, promptly contact a professional for diagnosis and repairs.

**Maintain Proper Ventilation:** Ensure that all supply and return vents are clean, unobstructed, and adequately sealed. Proper ventilation allows for efficient airflow and balanced temperature distribution.

**Energy-Efficient Upgrades:** Consider upgrading to energy-efficient HVAC models or components. Energy Star certified systems can significantly reduce energy consumption and lower utility costs.

**Question:** How often should HVAC filters be replaced?

**Answer:** The frequency of filter replacement depends on factors such as the type of filter, system usage, and environmental conditions. As a general guideline, disposable filters should be replaced every 1-3 months, while reusable filters should be cleaned and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.

**Question:** How can I improve energy efficiency in my HVAC system?

**Answer:** Schedule regular maintenance to ensure optimal system performance. Upgrade to energy-efficient equipment, such as ENERGY STAR-certified units. Install a programmable thermostat to adjust temperature settings based on occupancy.

Properly seal and insulate your home to minimize air leakage. Keep air vents clear and unobstructed. Consider using ceiling fans to supplement cooling or heating. er's instructions.

**Question:** What are common signs of HVAC system problems?

**Answer:** Insufficient cooling or heating. Frequent cycling or short cycling of the system. Unusual noises or odors coming from the system. High energy bills without a significant increase in usage. Inconsistent temperatures or poor airflow in different areas of the building. Excessive dust or poor indoor air quality.

Remember, proper maintenance not only extends the lifespan of your HVAC system but also enhances energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and overall comfort. Consult the manufacturer's guidelines and consider hiring a licensed HVAC professional for comprehensive maintenance and repairs.

### Tool of The Week



**Digital Manifold Gauge:** A digital manifold gauge is a tool used to measure and monitor the pressure and temperature of refrigerant in HVAC systems. It replaces traditional analog gauges and provides more accurate readings, additional features, and data logging capabilities.

### Product of The Week



**The Fluke 971 Temperature Humidity Meter:** Portable and accurate tool designed to measure temperature and relative humidity in HVAC systems and indoor environments. It helps HVAC professionals assess comfort levels, monitor environmental conditions, and identify potential issues related to temperature and humidity.