

## TIPS TO GET YOUR FURNACE READY FOR WINTER



### Check The Following List to Be Sure Your Furnace Is Ready for The Coming Winter

**1. Turn on the thermostat** - The thermostat regulates the amount of work the furnace must do — if the temperature drops below the set threshold inside the house, the furnace will click on it. Should the thermostat lose its calibration, it may click on at the wrong time or fail to shut off the furnace when the appropriate temperature has been reached, resulting in an inefficient system that wastes both energy and money.

If the thermostat in your home is old or out of date, consider replacing it with a newer, programmable model that can help better regulate temperatures and cut down on heating costs. Switch from cooling to heating and set the temperature a couple of degrees higher than the current room temperature. If you do not hear the heat kick on within a minute, pull off the cover and make sure the wire connections are secure (***if you feel comfortable doing so***). If the connections are snug, make sure the power source to the HVAC system is turned on. If it is still not working, you could check the furnace fan, blower, or heat pump — **but it likely makes better sense to call in a professional.**

**2. Change the air filters** - Air filters help keep debris, allergens, and other impurities out of the air inside of a home over time, absorbed allergens accumulate within the filter. This can lead to your HVAC unit working overtime as it tries to warm your home and can eventually result in increased wear-and-tear on internal components if not addressed.

You probably have air filters behind a vent grill in the wall or ceiling, or a single filter in the HVAC system itself. Change these filters every few months. Or, if you have a permanent

electrostatic filter, you can wash and reuse it. Cleaning or replacing your filters regularly keeps particles out of your HVAC system and can prolong its life. While you are at it, change your humidifier filter and set the humidistat, if your HVAC includes a humidifier.

**3. Cover the AC condenser** - Unless your HVAC is a heat pump (*in which case, do not cover it at all because it runs all year*), cover the condenser to protect it from falling icicles. "A large trash can lid secured with bungee cords works quite well for this function. You can also use a board to cover the fan — **but do not wrap it in a moisture-trapping plastic tarp.**

**4. Clean the heat exchanger** - The heat exchanger should be brushed and vacuumed out annually by **a trained professional** while the unit is disabled. While it is being cleaned, a technician will look for cracks, which could lead to a dangerous carbon monoxide leak into your home.

**5. Lubricate and clean the blower motor** - First check the owner's manual to see if your motor is the kind that needs lubricating. If it does, turn off the power, open the cover and clean the caps covering the bearings. Then remove the caps and lubricate the bearings.

**6. Test the igniter switch** - On an old system, you might have to relight the pilot. Newer systems have electronic ignitors. If the ignitor is not working, push the reset button. If that does not do the trick, check your breaker. Still not working. **Call in a professional.**

**7. Inspect the chimney and carbon monoxide detectors** - Chimneys can house carbon buildup or even small animals. **A professional should inspect them periodically.** Routinely test or replace carbon monoxide detectors as well, as they help protect you from the "silent killer".

**8. If you have an oil-powered furnace, replace your filter and nozzle, and check the tank level** - Unlike gas-fired systems, oil units require oil filter changes, burner nozzle cleaning and a thorough heat-exchanger brushing to keep them running efficient since oil doesn't burn as cleanly as gas.

**9. Schedule HVAC Maintenance Early** - The winter season is one of the busiest times of the year for any HVAC company. As temperatures began to drop and homeowners attempt to click on their furnaces for the first time in a year, many discover that an issue has developed. Rather than waiting until the cold temperatures start making their way inside, contact **East Coast Energy** for heating & furnace repair services before the big winter rush. With routine maintenance, your HVAC system can stay in optimal shape and keep providing your home or business with proper heating.

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO TAKE CARE OF YOU! CALL US AT 1-800-545-9155**