

Heating and A/C FAQs for your home

What is electronic zoning? What are the advantages?

An electronic zone system divides your home into separate areas that are controlled by individual thermostats. A house that is properly zoned maintains a consistent temperature throughout, is cost-effective, and energy-efficient.

I have hot water heat. Can I have central air conditioning?

Yes, but every home is different and how the cooling system is designed will depend on a number of factors. It is best to schedule an appointment to have someone take a look at your home in order to discuss options that make sense for you.

Why are some rooms in my house hotter than others?

There are a few possibilities that come to mind. 1) location of your thermostat 2) improperly balanced ductwork or 3) other ductwork problem.

What does the efficiency rating on my furnace mean?

The efficiency rating of your furnace is the amount of energy that actually goes into heating your home and is not lost through exhaust. The higher the efficiency rating of your furnace, the greater the potential energy & cost savings.

How often do I need to change my furnace filter?

CHECK your filter monthly. CHANGE the filter when it's visibly dirty. How often it needs to be changed is dependent on how often the equipment runs, the conditions under which your equipment runs, and the type of filter that you have.

Is there anything I can check myself before I call you for service?

Yes. Check to confirm that the thermostat is turned on and make sure there is power to your equipment. There is an on/off switch on the furnace and a service disconnect on the air conditioner. Also, make sure the circuit breaker is not tripped and/or the fuse is not blown. If all of these things are functioning properly and your problem persists, you probably need to call for service.

How do I know what size furnace I need?

Sizing of equipment can be complicated. To guarantee accuracy it should to be done by a licensed HVAC contractor such.

I just had a high efficiency furnace installed. Do I qualify for some kind of a rebate?

You probably do. The local energy companies run the rebate programs. Your HVAC contractor can supply you with the necessary paperwork.

What is a SEER Rating?

SEER = Seasonal Energy Efficient Ratio. SEER ratings are assigned to air conditioners based on efficiency. The higher the number the more efficient the air conditioner is.

What SEER rating should my air conditioner have?

The SEER rating of your air conditioner should be 13 or higher.

My furnace is 8 years old. Is it time to replace it?

Furnaces are meant to last for 10-20 years. The lifetime of your furnace is dependent upon how well it has been maintained, how often it has been used, and under what conditions it has been used (ex: a furnace that has "survived" a remodel project may have lost a few years of performance).

Does it help save energy (lower bills) to turn down heat at night? If so, how much does it take to make a difference?

You CAN save money/energy by turning down your heat, however an 8 degree temperature difference over 8 hours is necessary to notice any substantial savings. The owner's manual for the thermostat in your home should offer recommendations for energy savings.

How do you regulate humidity when running the heater in winter and how humid should the house be?

If you already have a whole-house humidification system, the humidity level in your home is controlled by a humidistat. A humidistat that has an outdoor temperature sensor is recommended. 45% relative humidity is recommended during the heating season.

How often should the system (heating/AC) be checked for proper function and efficiency?

Each system should be serviced annually by a qualified technician. Generally, heating systems are tuned up in the fall and cooling systems are tuned up in the spring. Additional equipment (humidifiers, air to air exchangers) are also serviced during a "tune up".

We live in an old house and would like to install central air conditioning. What are my options?

There's not an easy answer, but you DO have options. Every home is different and how the cooling system is designed will depend on a number of factors. It is best to schedule an appointment to have someone take a look at your home to discuss options that make sense for you.

If we put an addition on the house, can it have central air when the older part of the house does not?

It can. It is not uncommon for homeowners in this situation to heat the new part of the house with a smaller furnace and cool the entire house with an air conditioner that works with this new furnace. Of course, every house is different.

It's 70 degrees outside and really muggy. Is there anything I can do to make my house more comfortable?

This is a tricky situation. It is most likely the humidity that is making you uncomfortable. The problem is that the air conditioner, which relies on temperature, doesn't run long enough to have a chance to dehumidify. Your options are to turn your thermostat down (which may make you chilly!) or consider a whole-house dehumidification system.

My air conditioner seems really loud. I hear it every time it kicks in. Is this normal?

Ideally, you do not notice your air conditioner when it kicks in. If proper installation practices were followed, and you are still hearing your AC kick in, there may be a problem that requires service.

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647-228-2370

