

## Save energy with HVAC



Prepare your HVAC system now for those cold winter or hot summer days ahead. Maintenance will prevent serious problems and help avoid unnecessary costs.

A typical maintenance check up should include:

- Checking furnace system controls and thermostats. This will insure that the starting cycle is working properly so the unit keeps you comfortable when you are home and saves energy and money when you are away.
- Tightening the electrical connections and lubricating all HVAC moving parts. Faulty electrical connections and lack of adequate lubrication can reduce the life of the unit components. An improperly operating system can also increase your electricity bill.
- Making sure the condensate drain is working properly. Not only can a plugged drain or pipe cause water damage, it can also affect the humidity levels in your home.
- Cleaning the evaporator and air conditioning coils. Dirty coils can cost you money. They reduce the system's ability to cool the home properly,

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leading to higher energy bills.

- Checking air conditioner refrigerant level. Too much or too little refrigerant will affect system efficiency, increasing energy costs.
- Making sure blower components are properly adjusted. ENERGY STAR guidelines indicate that airflow problems can reduce system efficiencies by up to 15 percent.
- Changing air filters at least quarterly. Dirty filters reduce system efficiency and increase costs.

ENERGY STAR, a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy, helps save money and protects the environment through energy efficient products and practices. Energy efficient products that have attained the ENERGY STAR label are available in more than 50 product categories, including lighting and home appliances.

**For more information about these and other energy-saving ideas for your home, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).**



**For more information about saving money and energy, visit the West Virginia Division of Energy's Web site at [www.energywv.org](http://www.energywv.org).**

## **OTHER ENERGY-SAVING ARTICLES**

Energy saving articles are available from the West Virginia Division of Energy on the following topics:

*Replacing Light Bulbs with Cost-Saving CFLs*

*Rolling Out Extra Insulation in your Attic*

*Easily Installing a Programmable Thermostat*

*Using ENERGY STAR Appliances in the Kitchen*

*Using ENERGY STAR Appliances while doing the Laundry*

*Caulking Gaps Around Windows and Doors to Stop Leaks*

*Using the Landscape Around your Home to Lower Energy Bills*