

Time to wake up your furnace

Take care of your heating system now, before it gets too cold out

After a summer of hot days and warm nights, we're firmly planted in the fall and winter season, which means it's time to get your heating system up and running. Remember to add the following items to your fall seasonal to-do list to keep your home warm and toasty during the cooler months.

Furnace Maintenance

It's better to discover that your furnace needs fixing before it breaks in the middle of winter, leaving you scrambling to get it repaired before pipes start to freeze and burst. Preventative maintenance can also catch problems with incomplete combustion in the furnace, which can generate additional carbon monoxide if left unrepaired.

Take the time to change the furnace filters and familiarize yourself with the furnace filter changing schedule for your model. A furnace maintenance technician should be able to give you advice on the type of filters your furnace uses and how often they should be replaced.

Failing to replace filters can make the furnace work harder to heat your home, which can in turn pose a fire risk.

Clean those Ducts

While you may not need to do it every year, you shouldn't forget to get your air ducts cleaned every three to five years or after any major renovation work in your home. And while you're having ducts cleaned, ask to have the dryer vent cleaned as well. Lint build up can happen in the internal venting, and this can start a fire if it gets too hot.

Fireplaces and Chimneys

If you have a fireplace, you should have your chimney inspected and cleaned annually. Chimneys can shift, affecting their structural integrity and allowing carbon monoxide to potentially enter your home through a crack in the chimney wall. Also, depending on how often you use your fireplace, the chimney can accumulate soot that can start a fire inside the chimney.

It's also possible that birds, squirrels, wasps or other critters have built a nest up the chimney over the course of the summer. Using your fireplace with a blockage in the chimney can prevent the venting of smoke and carbon monoxide, causing it to back up dangerously into the home. There's also a risk that the nest could catch fire, resulting in a chimney fire.