

Keep your cool this summer with a maintained air conditioner

While a yearly check-up is best left to a qualified contractor, there are some things homeowners can do to avoid an ill-timed malfunction of their central air conditioning system this summer:

- Clean or replace the furnace filter. The air conditioner needs the furnace to circulate the air and a dirty filter circulates dust and other particles throughout the house, cutting down on a furnace's efficiency.
- The thermostat should be set below the room temperature and not set for cooling below 20 degrees Celsius which can cause a multitude of problems with your air-conditioner, including freezing up. Ideally, set the thermostat to 25.5°C when at home; 29°C when away.


• Turn the humidifier off during the summer cooling season. Leaving the humidifier on will only increase the cooling load and force the air conditioner to work harder.

- Close your drapes or shades on sunny days and ensure all windows in the house are closed.
 - Close off vents in any unused rooms.
 - Use ceiling fans to circulate the air.
- Optimizing your air conditioner can lead to energy savings and efficiency and will

keep your machine running smoothly all season long.

Book a qualified professional to make sure your air conditioning system is operating safely and efficiently. Consumers can learn more and locate a qualified contractor to service their air conditioning systems by going to the HRAI Contractor Locator, HRAI You Tube channel or calling 1-877-467-HRAI (4724). All HRAI Member Contractors have been prescreened and have the required trade licenses, technical certifications and insurance coverage.

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