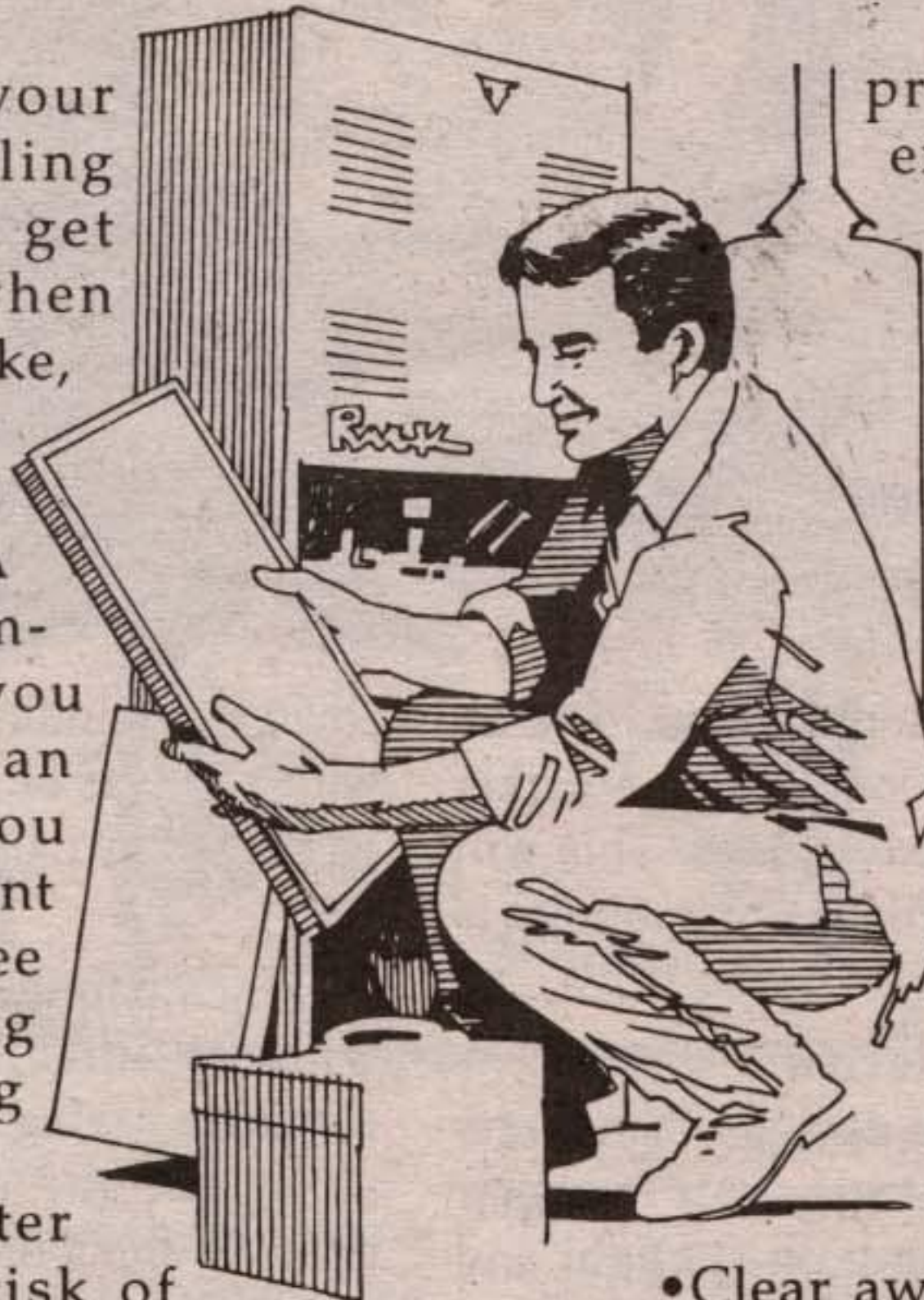


# Maintenance tips to keep your heating unit in tip-top shape

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cures, and your house—just like your car—needs regular maintenance to stay in shape. It's especially important to give your heating equipment a tune-up before winter hits. Here is a fall maintenance checklist that can help you save money while also giving you a healthier, more comfortable home.

The best use of your heating and cooling equipment is to get optimum comfort when you're home and awake, and optimum energy savings when you're gone or asleep. A programmable thermostat does that for you automatically. It can automatically pay you back with the equivalent of one, two even three months of free heating or air conditioning every year.

There is no better way to reduce the risk of breakdowns and big repair bills than by having your heating and cooling equipment professionally checked and cleaned at least once a year. Belts and parts wear out; dirty equipment wastes money and energy; cracked heat exchangers and chimney flues on a furnace or water heater can leak deadly



- carbon monoxide gas.
- Have your ducts professionally cleaned every two or three years.
- Have your central air serviced at the same time you get your fall furnace tune-up. It's more convenient and less expensive than a separate air conditioner service call in the spring and your cooling system will be ready to go when you need it.

The easiest, cheapest protection for your expensive heating and cooling equipment is to change the filter—or wash the cells on an electronic air cleaner—monthly. A clogged filter is asking for trouble because your heating and cooling equipment strains to move air through it. Plus, a dirty filter will noticeably increase the dust buildup in your house—and you'll be breathing dirtier air, too.

- Clear away debris on or around a heat pump or central air conditioner compressor. Cover the central air unit with plastic or a tarp, secured with duct tape, to protect it from leaves, snow and ice during the months it won't be used. (Remember to remove the covering before using the air conditioner again.)

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