



## What to expect from a furnace inspection

The old adage "if it isn't broken, don't fix it" should not apply when it comes to your household heating system. Like a car, your furnace is a running machine that needs regular tune-ups to ensure its efficiency and longevity. You wouldn't wait more than a year to give your car an oil change, so don't wait until your furnace breaks down to call for service.

A clean, well-adjusted heating system will save you money on fuel and will prolong furnace life. The cost of annual servicing is modest, especially when compared with the price of a new furnace.

There is some maintenance that homeowners can undertake themselves, such as the cleaning and replacing of filters. To ensure safe and efficient operation of a heating system, however, homeowners should have their furnace inspected and cleaned annually by a qualified service technician.

Homeowners searching for a qualified heating contractor in their area can access a user-friendly website— [www.hrai.ca](http://www.hrai.ca) or toll-free at 1-877-467-HRAI. This site lists contractor members of the Heating,

Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Contractors of Canada (HRAC), a national trade association. Inspections performed by a licensed technician will include the following:

- Safety test for carbon monoxide (CO)
- Check for hazardous debris in the chimney and flue
- Clean air filters and re-install
- Check operation of thermostat and safety controls
- Check gas pilot safety system and clean as required
- Clean motor and fan
- Check blower operation
- Check condition, tension and alignment of fan belt, and perform required adjustments
- Clean burners and set for proper combustion & ignition
- Check gas piping to furnace.

Investing in the proper maintenance of a home heating system is essential to ensure that it provides reliable and efficient indoor comfort when the outdoor temperature drops.

—News Canada

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