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# FURNACE MAINTENANCE GUIDE

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GTA HVAC Services  
Serving Toronto and the  
Greater Toronto Area



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# MISSION GTA HVAC SERVICES

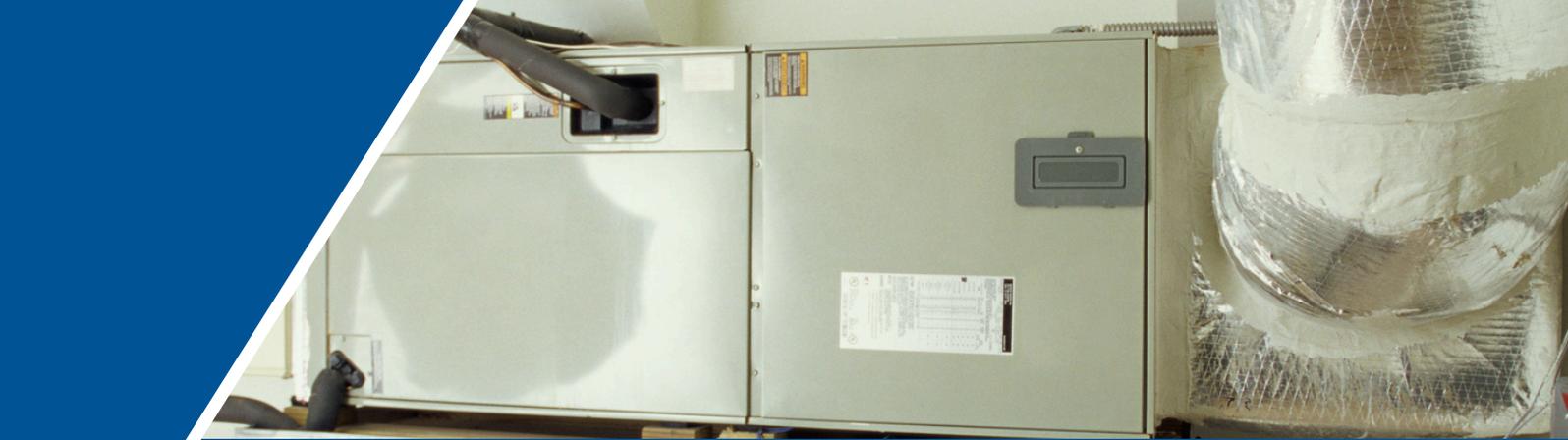


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## At GTA HVAC SERVICES,

we believe that preventative maintenance is key to ensuring your furnace operates efficiently and reliably throughout the cold months. This guide outlines the essential steps for maintaining your furnace, helping you avoid costly repairs and extend the lifespan of your HVAC system.





# WHY FURNACE MAINTANCE IS IMPORTANT

**Routine furnace maintenance is crucial for:**

**1. Improved Efficiency :**

A well-maintained operates more efficiently, reducing energy consumption and lowering utility bills

**2. Increased Longevity :**

Regular maintenance helps prevent wear and tear, extending the life of your furnace.

**3. Better Air Quality :**

Changing filters and cleaning components prevent dust, debris, and allergens from circulating through your home.



# WHY FURNACE MAINTANCE IS IMPORTANT

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## 4. **Safety:**

Proper maintenance reduces the risk of carbon monoxide leaks, gas leaks, and other safety hazards.

## 5. **Reliability:**

A maintained furnace is less likely to break down when you need it most, especially during extreme weather conditions.



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# ROUTINE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULED

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## Annual Inspection & Tune-Up:

Schedule furnace maintenance at least once per year, ideally before the heating season starts (late summer to early fall).



## Filter Replacement:

Check your furnace filter monthly. Replace it every 1-3 months depending on the type of filter, your usage, and household conditions (pets, dust, etc.).





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# DIY FURNACE MAINTENANCE TIPS



While professional HVAC technicians should handle the in-depth inspections, there are a few tasks homeowners can perform to keep their furnace running smoothly.

## Check the Thermostat

- ✓ Ensure the thermostat is set to the "heat" setting and adjust the temperature to your desired level.
- ✓ If you have a programmable thermostat, consider programming it to lower the temperature when you're not home or at night while you sleep.
- ✓ Replace the batteries in the thermostat if it's battery-operated.
- ✓ If the temperature reading seems inaccurate, or your furnace cycles on and off frequently, consider having it recalibrated or replaced by a technician.

## Replace the Furnace Filter

- ✓ Locate the furnace filter, which is typically near the blower motor (consult your user manual for exact location).
- ✓ Remove the old filter and inspect it for dirt and debris. A clogged filter restricts airflow and forces the furnace to work harder.
- ✓ Replace with a new filter that matches the furnace specifications (commonly a MERV 8-13 filter for residential use).
- ✓ Filters should be replaced every 1-3 months, or more often if you have pets or allergies.





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# DIY FURNACE MAINTENANCE TIPS



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## Inspect the Area Around the Furnace

- ✓ Ensure there's a clear space around the furnace for proper ventilation. Remove any items that could obstruct airflow.
- ✓ Check the furnace area for signs of moisture or leaks, which could indicate a problem with your furnace or its venting system.

## Check and Clean the Vents

- ✓ Inspect supply and return air vents for any obstructions. Furniture, rugs, or drapes blocking the vents can reduce airflow and efficiency.
- ✓ Clean the vent covers by vacuuming or wiping them down.
- ✓ Ensure vents are fully open and unobstructed to allow for proper airflow.

## Inspect the Furnace for Unusual Noises

- ✓ During heating season, listen for any unusual sounds from the furnace, such as rattling, clanging, or squealing.
- ✓ A noisy furnace could indicate problems with the blower motor, fan, or other components that may require professional inspection or repair.
- ✓ Ensure vents are fully open and unobstructed to allow for proper airflow.

## Inspect the Furnace for Unusual Noises

- ✓ A slight odor when first turning the furnace on at the beginning of the heating season is normal. It's usually just dust burning off the heat exchanger.
- ✓ If you detect a strong gas smell or something that seems unusual, immediately turn off the furnace and contact a professional technician. This could indicate a gas leak, which is a serious safety hazard.

# PROFESSIONAL FURNANCE MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Performed by GTA HVAC Services



While DIY maintenance helps, a professional HVAC technician should perform a more thorough inspection at least once a year. Here's what we check during a professional furnace maintenance visit:

## Inspect Furnace & Filter

- ✓ Thoroughly inspect the furnace, blower, and other components for damage, wear, and cleanliness.
- ✓ Check and replace the filter if needed (client-provided filter or technician-recommended filter type).

## Check the Thermostat

- ✓ Ensure thermostat calibration is accurate.
- ✓ Test thermostat functionality and replace batteries (if applicable).
- ✓ Ensure the thermostat is communicating properly with the furnace.



# PROFESSIONAL FURNANCE MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

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## Clean the Burners & Heat Exchanger

- ✓ Inspect and clean the burners to ensure clean combustion and efficient heating.
- ✓ Inspect the heat exchanger for cracks or corrosion, which could lead to unsafe operation.

## Inspect the Ignition System

- ✓ For older furnaces with a pilot light, inspect the pilot light and thermocouple.
- ✓ For modern furnaces with electronic ignition, check the ignitor to ensure proper operation.

## Inspect the Gas Supply & Pressure

- ✓ Check gas lines and connections for leaks using a gas leak detector.
- ✓ Verify that the gas pressure is correct and within the manufacturer's specifications.

## Clean the Blower Motor & Fan

- ✓ Clean the blower motor to remove dust and debris that can reduce efficiency.
- ✓ Check for smooth operation of the blower fan and ensure it is properly lubricated (if applicable).





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# SIGNS YOU NEED FURNACE MAINTENANCE



## **Inconsistent Heating**

If your furnace is blowing cold or uneven heat, or if certain areas of your home are colder than others, it may be a sign of a clogged filter or airflow issues.

## **Furnace Is Noisy**

Strange sounds like squeaking, banging, or grinding could indicate mechanical issues that require attention.

## **Increased Energy Bills**

A significant rise in your heating costs without a change in usage patterns may be due to inefficient furnace operation.



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# SIGNS YOU NEED FURNACE MAINTENANCE



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## **Frequent Cycling**

If your furnace turns on and off more frequently than usual, it could indicate a problem with the thermostat, air filter, or other components.

## **Shortage of Airflow**

Poor airflow or weak air output from your vents could indicate a problem with the blower motor or other internal components.



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# IN CONCLUSION



Regular furnace maintenance ensures your system runs safely, efficiently, and reliably. Whether you're a DIY enthusiast or prefer professional service, it's essential to maintain your furnace year-round to avoid costly repairs and ensure comfort during Toronto's long winters. If you need help, GTA HVAC Services is here for all your furnace maintenance and repair needs—call us today to schedule a professional inspection!



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