



Furnace Troubleshooting Guide

When outdoor temperatures drop, your heating system becomes a vital part of keeping your home comfortable. However, like any mechanical system, your furnace can occasionally experience trouble. Here's a guide to help:

1. No Heat/Not Running

- **Check the Thermostat:** Make sure it's on the "Heat" setting and the temperature is set higher than the current room temperature.
- **Check the Circuit Breaker:** Make sure it hasn't tripped the breaker.
- **Check the Switch:** It should be in the ON position.
- **Inspect the Air Filter:** A dirty air filter restricts airflow.
- **Check the Pilot Light** (if applicable): Ensure it's lit and burning steadily.

2. Furnace Runs but Doesn't Produce Heat

- **Check for Blocked Vents:** All vents and registers should be open.
- **Inspect the Blower:** If the blower is running but no heat is being produced, the blower motor or belt may need professional attention.

3. Furnace Makes Strange Noises

- **Banging or Clanging:** Could indicate loose parts within the furnace.
- **Screeching or Grinding:** May indicate a problem with the blower motor or fan bearings.
- **Rattling:** This could be caused by loose components within the furnace.

4. Furnace Cycles On and Off Frequently

"Short cycling" occurs when the furnace turns on and off rapidly, preventing it from reaching the desired temperature. This can be caused by a dirty air filter, a faulty thermostat, or a problem with the gas supply.

5. Unusual Odors

- **Burning Smell:** Could indicate an electrical problem or a malfunctioning burner or motor. It can also be due to dust and debris being heated within your ductwork, which may mean it's time for professional duct cleaning.
- **Gas Smell:** If you smell gas, immediately turn off the furnace and contact a qualified HVAC professional.

If you're unable to resolve the issue yourself or suspect a serious problem, contact **WestAIR** today to schedule service.

Sincerely,

Joe Lynch

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A Big Decision: Repair Or Replace?

The last thing any homeowner wants to hear is that their heating system won't make it through another winter. Ignoring the signs of an aging and failing furnace or heat pump may lead to the unpleasant — and chilly — experience of not having heat when you need it most. On the other hand, purchasing a new high-efficiency system can actually be more cost-effective than continuing to repair your old, inefficient one. While we highly recommend an in-home assessment of



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your unit by one of our professionally trained technicians, the following can help you decide if it's best to repair or replace your heating system.

When was your current heating system installed? Whether you have a furnace or heat pump, and depending on your use and how well it's been maintained, they can last 15 years or more. So if your HVAC system is less than 10 years old, chances are a service call will do the trick. For anything near or older than the typical lifespan, you may want to consider replacement versus repair.

Are you spending too much money on repairs? An out-of-warranty system that requires frequent repairs may be more than an expensive nuisance — it could also be unhealthy, and in some instances even unsafe. Old indoor coils, dirty burners and cracked heat exchangers not only affect the air you breathe, but they also lead to improper system operation.

How long do you plan on being in your home? If you're a short-timer in your home, you may be tempted to limp by and let the next owner worry about replacing the furnace. But another strategy would be to replace an old unit with high-efficiency equipment and roll it into the sale price of your home. At least that way, you'd get the advantage of enjoying the new equipment.

If you think it may be time to replace your heating system, make an appointment for an in-home evaluation now, before winter weather comes knocking. By evaluating the current condition of your equipment, we can help make your decision a little easier. ■

Top 10 signs it may be time to replace your heating system:

1. Your heating bills have skyrocketed.
2. Your equipment is over 15 years old.
3. Your system is excessively noisy.
4. Your A/C is part of a matched central HVAC system, and needs to be replaced.
5. Some rooms are too hot and some are too cold.
6. You've been spending a lot of money on numerous repairs.
7. Your house has indoor air quality problems.
8. You've added square footage to your house.
9. You just purchased an older house and "inherited" an older system.
10. You're simply not comfortable.

Water Heater Safety

Day in and day out, we rely on a water heater to perform as we expect it to. But problems can develop — as common as a leak or as deadly as a horrific explosion — so safety precautions are necessary.

First off, proper installation is critical. The water heater's location must meet minimum clearance requirements and the surrounding area be kept free from combustible materials and chemicals.

With electric water heaters, the primary safety issues are leaks or tube breaks. With propane and gas water heaters, flue breaks or gaps are an additional safety concern.

Need to light the pilot? If you smell gas, do not light it. Leave the house immediately and call your fuel supplier.

As with all major appliances, keeping up with water heater maintenance will provide years of service and peace of mind. ■



Set your water heater temperature at 120°F to protect loved ones from severe burning and scalding.

Tip

When Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 2:

- Set clocks back one hour
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms
- Switch direction of ceiling fans
- Replace your HVAC air filters (if needed).

Home Generators: Peace Of Mind When You Need It Most

It may not even cross your mind that your refrigerator is running so food won't spoil, or the furnace is keeping the house warm, or the lights will come on when you flip the switch — until a power outage.

Whether due to severe weather or a failure in the electrical grid, power outages are inconvenient at best. But they can also be costly, and dangerous if you or a loved one relies on medical equipment. Residential generators provide a solution that lets you live your life without interruption.

Portable generators require manual setup, but residential generators are permanently installed and automatically start to power the entire house during an outage — whether you're home or not. An important investment to consider for your family's safety and comfort. ■



Keep essential home appliances and lighting running by installing a residential generator.

Earth & Atmosphere

The Moon And Its Pull

The moon has long held a fascination for humans, providing us with countless traditions, myths and folklore. Since prehistoric times, we've scheduled our lives — and kept track of the change of seasons and time — by keeping a close watch on the moon. It also affects the rising and falling of the ocean's tides.

While the moon may have no direct effect on the weather, it does have a great deal to do with governing moisture. Not only does it control ocean tides, but it also influences groundwater tables. This gravitational effect on the flow of moisture in the soil and vegetation has long fed the belief that gardening and planting crops according to the phases of the moon is a natural and beneficial approach. Farmers and gardeners who embrace this practice follow a strict lunar cycle that guides them as to when to plant, when to prune and even when to weed. ■



The full moon that occurs closest to the date of the autumnal equinox is known as the Harvest Moon. For 2025, the Harvest Moon will also be a supermoon, and will occur on October 6.

Question & Answer



Regular maintenance helps prevent breakdowns and can extend the life of your HVAC equipment.

Should I be concerned if my furnace is short cycling?

Short cycling is when a furnace cycles on and off too frequently, often running for only a few minutes at a time. It signals there's a problem in how your heating system is functioning, since it's not completing the heating processes. It's not only an inefficient way to regulate the temperature inside your home, but can also be a sign of major problems in your heating system.

Several signs can indicate furnace short cycling:

- Unusual noises, such as rapid cycling or clicking sounds
- Inconsistent heating, or certain rooms feel significantly colder than others
- High heating bills or a constantly running system

Furnace short cycling can be caused by various factors, including dirty air filters, thermostat problems, oversized units and inadequate airflow. Regular maintenance can help prevent short cycling and will optimize your furnace's efficiency. We're here to help determine if there are underlying issues and make any necessary repairs. ■