

HVAC Facts Every Homeowner Should Know:

Helpful, easy to understand HVAC facts to help homeowners recognize issues early & protect your system long term.

- Your HVAC system uses more energy than any other system in your home. Heating and cooling can account for up to 50% of a home's energy use.
- Dirty filters can increase energy use by 5–15%. A simple filter change can actually lower utility bills. It's one of the cheapest efficiency upgrades.
- Poor airflow is more common than equipment failure. Many comfort issues are caused by duct design or leaks, not the furnace or AC itself.
- Leaky ductwork can waste up to 30% of conditioned air. That's air you've paid to heat or cool, ending up in the attic or crawlspace.
- Thermostat placement matters more than people realize. Direct sunlight, kitchens, or hallways can cause false readings and uneven comfort.
- Radiant heat can feel warmer at lower temperatures because it heats objects (not air). People often feel comfortable with lower thermostat settings.
- Regular maintenance can extend system life by years. A well-maintained HVAC system can last 5–10 years longer than a neglected one.
- Dust buildup doesn't just affect air quality. Dirty coils and blowers reduce heat transfer and system efficiency.

- High humidity can make your system work harder. Poor humidity control can strain equipment and reduce comfort even when temperatures seem correct.
- Frequent cycling shortens equipment lifespan. Systems that turn on and off often may be improperly sized or experiencing airflow restrictions.
- Restricted return air can cause system stress. Closed doors, blocked returns, or undersized returns can lead to overheating or freezing coils.
- Maintenance issues often show up in utility bills first. Sudden spikes in energy costs can be an early indicator of efficiency loss or system strain.
- Unusual noises are often early warning signs. Rattling, buzzing, or squealing usually means a small issue before it becomes a major repair.
- Uneven temperatures often point to airflow problems. Hot or cold rooms are commonly caused by duct issues, not a failing system.
- Refrigerant issues affect more than cooling, low refrigerant can reduce efficiency, increase run time, and damage the compressor over time.