

## HEAT PUMP MAINTENANCE

Follow these simple guidelines to ensure efficient operation:

- Install a programmable thermostat designed specifically to optimize heat pump operation. “Smart” or “intelligent recovery” thermostats minimize the use of back-up heat and give you convenient program options.
- Set the temperature down to approximately 18 - 20 degrees C at night when you’re sleeping - less than 18C when you’re away from the house.
- Don’t make frequent thermostat changes. This can cause the back-up heat to come on, which can increase heating costs. It can also cause the system to turn off and on and damage the compressor. Any time the system is turned off, it needs about three minutes for the system pressures to equalize before it is safe to restart. Many systems have a time delay to prevent this problem.
- Check air filters once a month. Clean or replace them when dirty.
- Don’t close supply registers or diffusers in any room. It can damage your heat pump compressor and may actually increase your energy use.
- Keep furniture from blocking air returns and air supplies.
- Remove grates and vacuum heat registers regularly to remove dust and debris.
- Check ducts yearly for loose connections and holes.
- Inspect the indoor cooling coil in the fan to make sure condensation is draining properly.
- Keep the outdoor unit free of leaves, dirt and nearby foliage.
- Do not cover the outside unit in winter... this is when it is used most often.
- Don’t run the heat pump if the outdoor coil is covered with ice from freezing rain or an ice storm. Switch the thermostat to emergency or supplemental heat until the ice is cleared. If you clear the ice yourself, be very careful not to damage the coil. De-icing is usually an automatic feature of the unit.
- When you’re away from home for more than a day in the winter, set the thermostat to the auxiliary or emergency heat position and adjust to the lowest temperature setting.
- During a long power outage (more than 24 hours), switch your thermostat to emergency heat and leave it there for 12 hours after the electricity comes back on. This delay prevents compressor damage by allowing time for the crank case heater on the compressor to boil off any liquid refrigerant before the compressor is started.
- Take time to review your owner’s manuals for specifics about your heat pump and your thermostat.