

Additional Energy Savings Considerations

HVAC systems should be serviced yearly by a Certified Technician.

According to the ACCA, the Minimum requirements for a service check should include:

- Inspection of ducts, filters, blower and electrical connections
- Cleaning of condensing unit coils
- Checking the amp draw of the compressor
- Oiling the fan motors
- Checking that belts are well adjusted
- Checking the system operating pressures and temperatures against manufacturer's specifications
- Checking refrigerant level for correct pressure
- Setting the electric control so that heating is locked out when thermostat is set to cool and cooling is locked out when thermostat is set to heat

Visit: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=heat_cool.pr_maintenance

Programmable thermostats can save energy if used correctly.

Heat Pumps should have Programmable thermostats with the "Adaptive Recovery/ Smart Recovery" feature. This feature allows the Heat Pump to ramp up gradually to the desired temperature which minimizes the chance that the Aux strip heat will come on.

Visit: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=thermostats.pr_thermostats

Have you inspected your ductwork?

If the insulation has fallen off, or if a section of ductwork has come loose, this will cause your HVAC system to work harder to heat and cool your home. The joints and seams on most ductwork is not sealed. If your ductwork is in a crawl space or attic, you are likely wasting a lot of energy. ***Leaky ductwork can increase your heating and cooling costs by up to 30%.***

Visit: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_improvement.hm_improvement_ducts

Have you changed your air filters lately?

Dirty filters make the system work harder and decrease its efficiency.

Is your home sealed tight and draft free?

You can save as much as 20% on your heating and cooling by reducing the air leaks in your home.

Visit:

http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/publications/pubdocs/DIY_Guide_May_2008.pdf

http://www.advancedenergy.org/buildings/knowledge_library/indoor_air_quality/air-tight_and_leak-free.html

Do you keep your Crawl Space vents and access door closed and sealed tight?

Vented crawl spaces waste energy and cause moisture and indoor air quality problems. It is recommended we seal and condition our crawlspaces for the highest levels of energy efficiency, moisture control and air quality.

Visit:

<http://www.crawlspaces.org>

<http://www.buildingscience.com/search?SearchableText=crawl>