



Winter is over. Spring has sprung. Summer is coming.

Is your HVAC system ready?

It's spring and, as a homeowner, your thoughts turn to the care and maintenance of your HVAC system. They do, right? If there's a perfect example of an ounce of prevention being worth a pound of cure, your spring HVAC checkup is it.



While there are some important spring HVAC maintenance tasks you can take on yourself, many others can only be safely performed by a professional. Ask about GreenSky® financing for the tough jobs.

Airflow within your home:

DIY:

Replace the filter.

If you do not know where your system's air filter is, and how to replace it, ask your HVAC pro to show you. Then, change it regularly. How often depends on your system and the type of filters you use. When in doubt, change it once per month. A dirty filter can reduce efficiency, increase operating costs and damage your system.

Clean air return vents.

Begin by using a vacuum hose with a brush or crevice tool to remove as much dust and dirt from the grill as possible. If the going gets tough, try stretching a cloth over a screwdriver or similar tool to clean between the vents.

Clean registers.

This is important if your system has floor mounted registers. Dirt can (and will) drop into the registers and restrict airflow. You should vacuum them regularly, but it might be wise to occasionally remove and clean them with water and a mild detergent. Vacuum the opening area, then keep it covered until the vent dries and can be replaced.

PRO:

Clean ductwork.

Only a professional can thoroughly clean your ductwork, but the results are dramatic. Over time, dirt and dust can build up and deposit in your home or pull into your HVAC system.

Airflow within your HVAC system:

DIY:

Inspect and clean the outdoor condenser unit.

Your central air conditioning system cannot perform efficiently if air does not flow through the outdoor condenser unit smoothly. Be sure to turn off the power to the unit prior to inspecting or cleaning it. Begin by removing growth and debris from around the unit, then use a garden hose or wet vac to clean the vents. Inspect the drain to ensure it flows correctly.

PRO:

Here are the important items that should be checked by your HVAC pro in the spring:

- ☑ Check refrigerant levels, test for and repair leaks
- ☑ Inspect the compressor and motor
- ☑ Replace worn belts and other parts
- ☑ Inspect and tighten electrical connections
- ☑ Test the thermostat
- ☑ Inspect and straighten condenser fins
- ☑ Clean the evaporator coil
- ☑ Lubricate all moving parts
- ☑ Be sure the condenser unit is level

Consider a maintenance contract.

Many HVAC service companies offer contracts that include twice-yearly system inspection and maintenance. They may also offer discounts on products, parts and services. In addition to the potential savings, a contract can be a good way to ensure your system gets the preventative maintenance it needs to operate as efficiently and reliably as possible.