

Is Your Air Conditioner Not Working?

Try these quick tips:

- Is your filter clean? Systems will shut down if air flow is poor.
- How old are the thermostat batteries? If the metal terminals are corroded, gently wipe them off and replace with fresh batteries. (Note: Wi-Fi Smart thermostats will not use batteries)
- Is the indoor fan running? If not, check the main breaker and reset the one that should be labeled as Fan/ Blower/ Air Handler/ Furnace. Rock the breaker off then back on.
- Is the outdoor fan running? If not, check the main breaker to the house for the one labeled "Air Conditioner" or "Heat Pump", rock breaker off then back on.
- If the outdoor unit still isn't working, there should be a disconnect box next to the unit attached to the house. Pull the handle and if there are fuses, replace with time delay fuses. Any hardware store should be able to help. Make sure the amperage is the same as the fuses currently in the box. (I keep a spare set on hand at all times and have used them on a few occasions to get back up and running in no time!)
- If none of these tips work, try turning the thermostat off completely and waiting a few hours. If the system has iced up it may need to reset.

****[Check out our YouTube channel](#) for demonstrations on the above tips ****



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Other things to consider:

- Do not leave air conditioning system completely off! Set your thermostat to COOL first thing in the morning. Set it for just a few degrees warmer than you will eventually want it set to later in the day. It takes a lot of energy to try and cool the system down by a large temperature gap, sometimes never making it if the house is too hot to start with. Example: set to 82° while you are gone if you want it 78° when you get home
- Don't set the thermostat too low. Turning the temperature down really low will not make the system cool any quicker. It may actually do more harm than good. Lower temperature in 4-5 degree increments at a time. Design temperature in Sacramento is 78° indoor temperature, do not set your thermostat into the 60's and expect it to cool, it won't.
- If you feel the system isn't performing to your expectations: After the air conditioner has been running for about 20 minutes, take a thermometer and stick it in a vent where the air comes out. Then place the thermometer at the air intake. If the air coming out is at least 20 degrees cooler than the air pulling in, that is a standard "split" and the system is working correctly.
- If it is 100° outside and your house is cooling to 78° inside, the system is working fine! The hotter it is outside, the harder it is to cool the inside. It is just physics, nothing is wrong with your system.

If you are still having an issue with your system, please call us as soon as you realize you have a problem! Calls are scheduled in the order they are received so don't wait to call if you need us! During heat waves we try to have a tech on call Saturday mornings to help.

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More tips to keep your home cooler this summer:

- **Cool the Mass-** Don't run your air conditioner or whole house fan for just a short amount of time. The air will heat back up quickly and the system will need to kick back on again. You want to run the system longer so that it actually runs less. We want the walls, the floors, the couches to all cool down. If not, they radiate heat and the air will warm up quickly again.
- **Ceiling Fans-** If you have them, use them! Air movement makes you feel about 5 degrees cooler than the actual air temperature. This means you can have your thermostat set to 80°, but you'll *feel* like you are running it at 75°!
- **Oscillating or Box Fans-** Same as ceiling fans, just portable. Put them in the rooms you are in. On cooler nights, open the windows and place fans in front of them to help pull the cooler air in. Here in Sacramento, this is a great way to take advantage of the Delta breezes.
**One thing to note with room fans:* They cool people, not rooms. It is that evaporation off the skin that makes it feel cooler. So if you aren't in a room, there really isn't a reason to keep a ceiling or room fan running.
- **Whole House Fans-** if you have one, open up the house first thing in the morning and turn it on to precool. Turn it off before it gets too warm.
- **Drapes and Window Blinds-** Keep all the drapes shut and blinds closed as much as possible. Yes, your house may feel a little dungeon like, but keeping the sunlight out keeps the house from heating up.
- **Avoid the Oven-** This doesn't mean you get to eat out, sorry to disappoint! But think about making salads or sandwiches on days it is too hot to cook. Use your slow cooker or pressure cooker which won't heat up the house. Or grill outside if you can.
- **Do Less Housework-** Running the dishwasher or dryer during the hottest part of the day will add to the heat load in your home as well as the energy consumption load of your utility company. Think of it as a good excuse to relax with a good book while saving money.
- **Light it Up-** Change incandescent light bulbs to LED. Not only do they have a longer life span, they don't give out the amount of heat the old style bulbs do. It may not seem like much, but every little bit helps. Especially if you have all the blinds closed!
- **Bedtime Routines-** Right before bed, spray down your top bed sheet with water in a spray bottle. Turn on a room or ceiling fan and crawl into bed. It will be nice and cool (at least for a little while) and help you get to sleep.



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