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Reasons to Tune Up Your Heating System

1. Prevents breakdowns and increases reliability.

Clean, well lubricated, and properly adjusted parts will last longer and suffer fewer unexpected breakdowns. Parts that regularly wear out can be replaced before they fail, at a lower expense and without the inconvenience of a repair call.

Taking care of your furnace between winters decreases the chances that it will break down during the winter, when heating companies are booked solid and it is difficult to get service.

One study estimated that 9 out of 10 heating & air conditioning system breakdowns are caused by dirt and dust. Heating system repairs can often be very costly and inconvenient, but most of them can be prevented just by keeping your system clean!

2. Reduced Energy Consumption

A dirty filter makes a furnaces fan work harder and burn more energy.

Misadjusted gas valves and burners can result in too much gas being released, wasting energy and releasing poisonous carbon monoxide gas.

An excessively dirty heat exchanger can prevent heat from entering the air and result in wasted energy and can increase your heating costs by up to 20%.

3. Reduced risk of house fires and carbon monoxide poisoning

Every year in North America more than 1700 people die from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning and over 10,000 are treated or hospitalized. Faulty heating systems are also one of the major causes of house fires.

The BC Safety Authority says: "Home heating appliances... should be inspected annually and cleaned as often as necessary by licenced contractors to prevent fires and reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning... While a CSA approved carbon monoxide detector in your home is an added safety measure, the best solution is regular appliance maintenance."

4. Increased system performance

Well maintained heating equipment ensures that your system is capable of delivering the maximum amount of heat, with the minimum amount of noise.

5. Lengthened system life

Well maintained equipment lasts longer. It reduces your chances of experiencing major breakdowns earlier than you should, and slows down the process of the unit deteriorating until its no longer worth repairing.

6. Keeps your system warranty valid

All major furnace manufacturers require regular maintenance or their warranty is void. According to BC Hydro "regular maintenance can go a long way to increasing the comfort, cost effectiveness and energy efficiency of your home heating."