

FURNACE

FALL STARTUP

CHECKLIST

BEFORE THE FIRST STARTUP

- Inspect ductwork for loose connections and gaps. Seal any openings with metal duct tape.
- Remove items from around the furnace so as not to obstruct airflow. Remove combustible items (rags, mops, or paper) from near the furnace. Make sure flammable products are not in the same room as the furnace.
- Clean the accessible areas of the furnace with a vacuum and a brush attachment. Remove residue from the pilot light port and burners. Avoid damaging or jarring the components.
- Replace the disposable air filter. If your furnace has a reusable filter, remove it and wash it with soap and water. Let dry before replacing.
- Inspect the blower belt for cracks and wear. The belt should depress slightly when pushed down on. You will need to remove a couple of bolts to replace a worn belt.
- Flush out the drain line by removing the hose and filling it with a solution of 25% bleach and 75% water to prevent mold growth. Flush the hose after a few minutes.
- Check the furnace exhaust and chimney/vent for obstructions. Disconnect the duct at the furnace and check for debris.
- If you have a humidifier, check that it is on and the filter/pad is clean.
- Replace batteries in your thermostat if applicable.
- Replace the batteries in the carbon monoxide and smoke detectors. Test the devices to ensure that they work properly.
- Schedule a tune-up to make sure your furnace is operating properly and efficiently.

SIGNS YOUR FURNACE NEEDS TO BE REPLACED

- Your home is more than 12 years old.
- The furnace has required repair more than once in the last 5 years.
- The furnace makes loud noises when running.
- Utility bills are rising every year due to your furnace becoming less efficient.
- Your furnace is running nonstop but can't maintain the temperature the thermostat demands.
- Your furnace warranty is expired and repairs are more expensive because they are no longer covered.
- The airflow coming out of vents seems low.
- You are noticing hot and cold spots in your home.

BONUS: FURNACE TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

FURNACE WON'T TURN ON

1. Double check that the **thermostat** is set to Heat or Auto.
2. Check **circuit breakers**. A fuel-run furnace has some components that require electricity.
3. Check the **pilot light** of fuel-run furnaces. If you hear a click as the furnace attempts to initiate, it could be that the pilot light is out.
4. Check the **air filter**. A dirty filter can block airflow, shutting down the furnace.
5. Make sure the **gas valve** is turned on.

FURNACE BLOWS COLD AIR

1. Change **air filter**.
2. Check **pilot light**.
3. Check that **thermostat** is set to Heat or Auto. The "on" position keeps the fan blowing continually. However, if the furnace is not fired up, it's simply recycling room temperature air.
4. Make sure the **gas supply** is turned on.
5. Check that the **condensate drain line** is not clogged. Clogs activate a switch that will prevent the furnace from lighting.

FURNACE MAKES STRANGE NOISES

1. **Rattle**: It could be loose panels, a misaligned blower, or a motor malfunction. The latter two require the skill of a technician.
2. **Clicking**: Repeated clicking could be your control panel, the compressor, or a defective electrical relay. Again, you may need to call a technician to fix this.
3. **Grinding**: Motor bearings may need replacement or a belt may require alignment – all jobs for a trained furnace technician.
4. **Squealing**: The belt connecting the motor to the fan may have slipped or needs replacing.

Ready to service or replace your furnace?

Call Herrmann Services today at **(513) 737-8423!**



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