

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR!

Some Things You Should Know About Your Air Conditioner

An air conditioning unit works by transforming a refrigerant compound from a gas to a liquid and back again in a continuous cycle through a compressor that is located in the outdoor condensing unit.

Heat and humidity from inside the home are transferred by the refrigerant from the evaporator coil (above the furnace), through the line-set to the condenser, where they are released into the air through the condenser's 'fins.'

Common Issues

With proper maintenance, your AC compressor should last over a decade with little issue, but here are some of the problems that can arise without routine care.

Low lubricant levels, or leaks, can lead to inefficiency or failure.

Overheating and failure can result from imbalances in voltage or current.

Leaks can cause an insufficient flow of refrigerant, cutting into the time your compressor should last by making it work harder.

A dirty outdoor condenser can interfere with the transfer of heat, resulting in a less efficient unit.

The best way to keep your air conditioner in tip-top shape is to arrange to have your air conditioner maintained or serviced annually. During the visit, the technician will thoroughly inspect the unit for signs of wear; including clearing any dust and dirt, lubricating moving parts and checking electrical connections. The condensate drain will be checked for proper drainage as well as the thermostat's operation. Refrigerant pressures and temperatures will be taken and fittings checked for tightness.

What is Refrigerant?

Refrigerant is a chemical that transports heat from the evaporator coil to the condensing unit outdoors. Manufacturers equip their units with the correct amount of refrigerant they will need. If the line-set is over 50 feet in length, the contractor will add more refrigerant at the time of installation.

Refrigerant Leaks

Bubbling or hissing near the refrigerant lines, ice on the lines, high electricity bills, or an AC blowing warm or hot air may indicate that there may be a refrigerant leak. It is illegal in Ontario to add refrigerant to a system without first repairing the leak. It is best to call a ClimateCare professional to diagnose the issue and to determine the best course of action.

Repair or Replace?

During a "leak test" the location of the leak is determined: it could be in the indoor coil or the outside condenser. The service technician will be able to advise you. Depending on the age of the system and the cost of the repair, it might be advisable to replace the unit. Before having the test done, you may decide to have a comfort advisor visit your home to give you options on a replacement unit.

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Explore And Enjoy These Hidden Treasures This Summer

If you don't mind getting away from your air conditioner, here are some off the beaten path ideas to spend your time exploring Ontario.

Take A Hike!

Willing to work up a bit of sweat? Ontario is full of gorgeous trails for hikers of all levels. Here are just some of the gorgeous trails Ontario has to offer:

Hamilton to Brantford Rail Trail;
Kortright Centre Trail (Vaughan);
Burk Trail (east of Oshawa);
Bennett Heritage Trail (Niagara Region);
Casque Isles Section of the Voyageur Trail (between Sudbury and Thunder Bay);
Rattlesnake Point (Milton);
Meadowlily Trail (London);
Manitou Mountain Trail (Ottawa);
Ganatchio Trail (Windsor).

McCallion Planetarium

Located at McMaster University in Hamilton, the W.J. McCallion Planetarium brings the mysteries of the solar system to you.

Visiting the Planetarium is a great family activity that's awe-inspiring, and educational. Best of all, it's affordable too: Admission is \$7.00 per person. In the case of certain shows or observation events, the admission is free for everyone.



Hot Air Balloon Festival

Just across the Ottawa River in Gatineau, Canada's largest hot air balloon festival takes place over the Labour Day weekend.

Starting at 6:30 each morning, pilots take gas-powered balloons to the sky, accompanied by the sound of live music. It's a sight to see as the sky turns into a moving rainbow of colours.

Terry Fox Memorial

After losing his leg to cancer in 1980, Terry Fox set out to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research. He made it to Thunder Bay before his cancer forced him to abandon his run.

To celebrate his Marathon of Hope, the Terry Fox Memorial and Lookout features a statue of Terry in motion and offers beautiful views of Thunder Bay too.



Baseball Hall of Fame

Although baseball is considered America's pastime, the sport has quite a long history right here in Ontario (and Canada too).

As a matter of fact: Babe Ruth hit his first professional home run on September 5, 1914 in a game at Hanlon's Point in Toronto.

And, it was in Canada that Jackie Robinson broke baseball's colour barrier back in 1946 while playing for the Montreal Royals.

Canadian baseball history comes alive at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, located in St. Mary's (just north of London).

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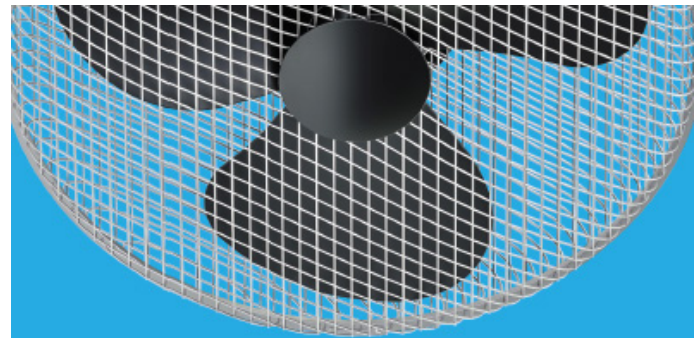
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