

Tuning Up for Summer

- Add decorative rock and vegetation killer around the leveling pad to help inhibit plant growth near the unit
- Periodically inspect the metal casing and grille work. If rust is present, sand and spray with a rust-preventive paint
- Protect outdoor unit finish with automobile cleaner and paste wax application

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ENERGIZING LIFE: A COMMITMENT THAT GOES BEYOND RELIABILITY

At Kansas City Power & Light, we know you expect electricity to always be there. And you should. So we've worked hard to build one of the best reliability records in the industry. We also want you to get the most value from the energy you buy. That's why we offer this brochure with tips to keep your heat pump or central air conditioner running efficiently, so you'll stay cool and comfortable all summer long.

GETTING THE MOST VALUE FROM YOUR HEAT PUMP OR CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONER

Heat pumps and air conditioners can be your best friends during the summer months. If you treat them well and keep them running at top efficiency, they'll keep you cooler and more comfortable at a lower operating cost. You'll also help prevent equipment failures and extend the life of your equipment. It's that simple!

The best way to ensure efficient operation of your central air conditioning unit is with a tune-up at the start of each cooling season. A tune-up by a service expert can improve your unit's efficiency by as much as 20 percent, as well as lengthen its performance life.

The following information shows you what's involved in an air conditioner tune-up. It also suggests things you can do to get the most value for your cooling dollar.

WHAT THE TUNE-UP EXPERTS SHOULD DO

Check refrigerant pressure and tubing

If your unit's refrigerant charge is too low, your cooling equipment will not work properly. Only a qualified serviceman using pressure gauges and a charging kit can check your refrigerant and locate any leaks.

Check and adjust belt tension

Your cooling expert will examine belts for cracks or missing chunks of rubber, and make sure the belt tension is correct.

Clean and lubricate the indoor blower unit

While oiling the blower unit assembly, your service professional will check fan bearings for signs of wear.

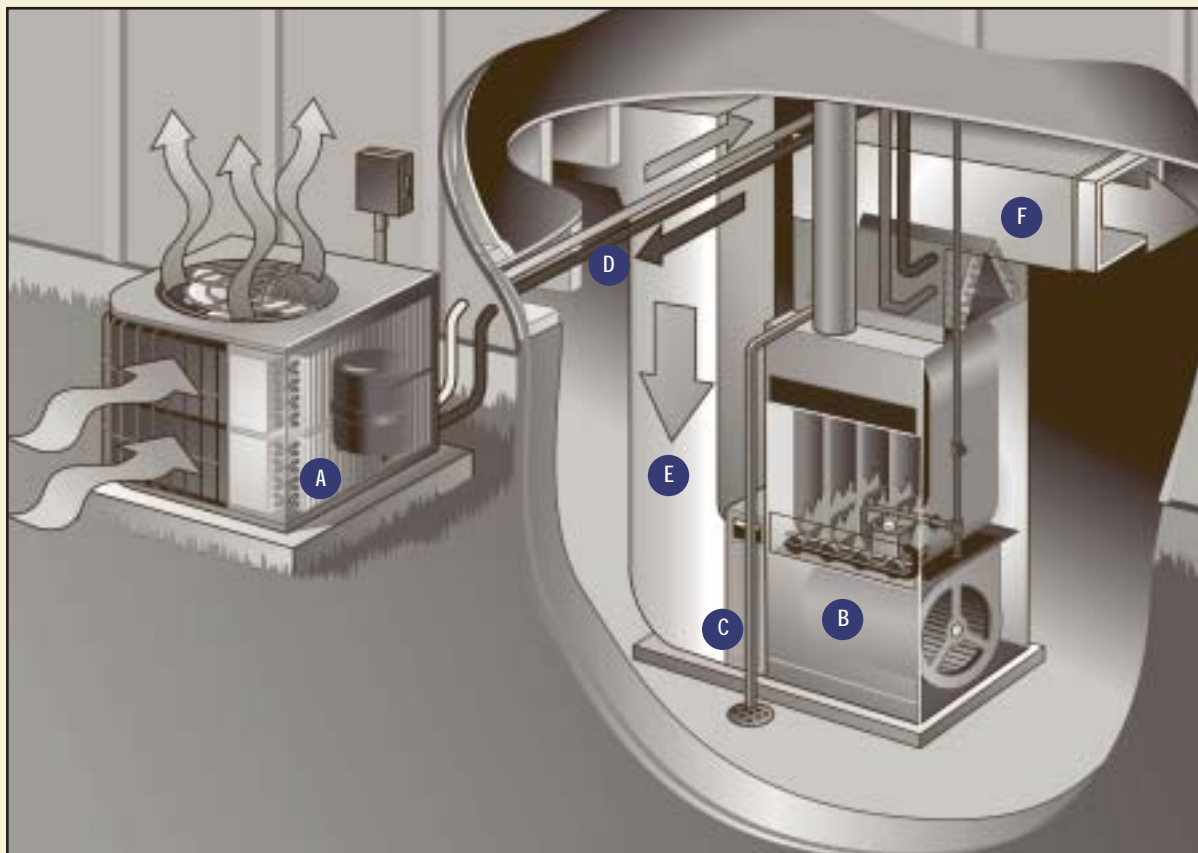
Clean inside the "A" coil

Ask your service expert to inspect and, if necessary, vacuum this coil or clean it with solvent. This preventive maintenance is especially important if filters haven't been regularly changed or cleaned.

Check thermostat, wiring and all electrical parts

Contact points and relays are examined and replaced when necessary to ensure the smooth functioning of the cooling cycle.

An Inside Look at Your Heating and Cooling Equipment



A. Outdoor Unit B. Furnace C. Filter D. Refrigerant Lines E. Supply Air F. Return Air

TUNE-UP TIPS YOU CAN DO YOURSELF

Review owner's manual

Before starting your unit at the beginning of the season, check for precise instructions. Follow them exactly to avoid damaging the equipment.

Clean outside condensing unit

Remove all dirt, leaves and debris accumulated on the exterior unit that can impede air flow through the coils. A good time for the first cleaning each year is around the

end of May or early June when your unit begins showing a large accumulation of fluff from area cottonwood trees. Trim back shrubs and grass to no closer than 12 inches from the unit.

Check furnace filters

Dirt pushed through the filter can collect on blower blades or interior coil surface and decrease the unit's efficiency. If your filters are cleanable, wash or vacuum them thoroughly. If they are disposable, replace

them with the same size and type. Recheck filters monthly during peak seasons and clean or replace as needed.

Oil your blower motor

Although some newer motors are permanently lubricated, older blower motors should be oiled at the beginning of the season. Switch off the motor at the furnace or turn off the system at the breaker box or fuse panel before proceeding. Remove sheet metal section covering motor. Your blower motor may have a spring-loaded oiler cap or a removable plastic or rubber plug. Add several drops of non-detergent, 10-weight motor oil. Never over-oil your motor. Refer to your owner's manual for specific oiling instructions.

Turn off and clean humidifier

If you have a central system humidifier, it should be shut off in the cooling season. Locate the water supply source for the humidifier and turn it off. Drain the humidifier reservoir and clean the pad or wheel with vinegar or a mild solution of muriatic acid. If it has a damper, make sure it is closed.

A REPLACEMENT TIP THAT CAN SAVE YOU MONEY

If your air conditioner is more than eight years old, you could save as much as 30 percent in operating costs by replacing it with a new, high efficiency heat pump. It's your best replacement for a worn out air conditioner. It provides efficient cooling, plus it offers year-round advantages no regular air conditioner can – such as warm, even heating; improved efficiency; and significant savings with KCP&L's low eight month winter pricing for electric heating. Before you purchase a heat pump, check the unit's Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER). The higher the rating the more efficiently the unit will cool and heat your home. For optimum savings, look for a unit with an SEER of 13 or higher.

HOW TO GET THE MOST VALUE FROM YOUR AIR CONDITIONER

- Lower operating costs by setting your thermostat at 78 degrees
- Inside your house, clean and open all dampers and grilles and remove any furniture or other items that could obstruct air flow
- Try not to add heat and humidity to your house when your air conditioner is working hardest to cool it
- If possible, shade the outdoor unit, but do not obstruct it
- Keep fins and coils free from leaves, dust and other debris
- Never cut grass while the unit is operating. Always use a grass-catching bag on the mower. Never spray grass clippings directly toward the unit.