

# Is Your Heating Unit Ready for Winter? A Homeowner's Guide



| Maintenance Task   | Steps to Complete                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Benefits                                                                                                                                                        | When to Seek Professional Help                                                                          |
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| Visual Inspection  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turn off power to the unit at the circuit breaker.</li> <li>• Check for rust, corrosion, or water stains.</li> <li>• Inspect wiring for fraying or burn marks.</li> <li>• Ensure ventilation is clear of debris and obstacles.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detects wear or damage early.</li> <li>• Reduces fire hazards.</li> <li>• Improves system lifespan.</li> </ul>         | Visible deterioration, such as leaks or extensive wiring damage, should prompt professional assessment. |
| Filter Replacement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate the air filter in the return air duct or blower compartment.</li> <li>• Remove the old filter and examine it under light.</li> <li>• If light cannot easily pass through, install a new filter.</li> </ul>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improves heating efficiency.</li> <li>• Enhances air quality.</li> <li>• Lowers energy costs.</li> </ul>               | None typically, unless filter installation results in system errors.                                    |
| Thermostat Check   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set thermostat to heat mode and increase temperature.</li> <li>• Confirm system activates within a few minutes.</li> <li>• Compare thermostat reading to a room thermometer.</li> </ul>                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintains accurate temperature control.</li> <li>• Prevents energy waste.</li> <li>• Improves home comfort.</li> </ul> | Calibration issues or unresponsive thermostats may require a technician.                                |

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| <b>Strange Noises</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Record any unusual system sounds (e.g., banging, squealing).</li><li>• Note when the noises occur for detailed reporting.</li></ul>                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Highlights potential mechanical issues early.</li><li>• Prevents damage from worsening.</li></ul> | Unusual sounds like clanging or squealing often indicate the need for professional repair.                  |
| <b>Carbon Monoxide Concerns</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Install carbon monoxide detectors in key areas.</li><li>• Inspect flame color; yellow flickering flames suggest problems.</li><li>• Check for soot or excessive rusting near unit vents.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensures home safety against gas leaks.</li><li>• Protects family health.</li></ul>                | If detectors alarm or physical symptoms like headaches occur, evacuate immediately and call a professional. |