



Air Conditioning System Maintenance

We are going to try to help you get your air conditioning prepared for the warm weather. Southern Ontario weather can change instantly from cool to hot and when you first call on your air conditioning you want it to respond for you with cool air coming out of the registers.

First off, if you have installed a winter cover on your outside unit, it is time to remove it. You don't want to forget this step as running the air conditioning with the cover on will damage your unit. Once the cover is off, check to make sure there has been no physical damage to the unit over the winter. Check that the insulation on your refrigerant lines is intact and not damaged, as this can affect the operation of the system.

Your outside air conditioner unit could probably use a coat of car wax to refresh its finish and help protect it from the harsh summer sun. Check and make sure the A/C breaker is turned on in the main electrical panel and in your exterior electrical disconnect box. If the power has been off to the unit (breaker off or fuse pulled) then you should restore power for 48 hrs before starting the system to allow the system to warm up and prevent damage. Also change or clean the filter in the furnace, depending on which style you have.

During the summer you will want to keep vegetation from restricting the air flow through your unit. Keep everything at least 12" away and cut back any bushes or trees so they are not growing above the discharge unit. If you have mulch around the unit, make sure its not covering the air conditioner cooling areas.

Once the temperature is above 65 degrees for at least 24 hrs, I would suggest trying your air conditioning system to see if it will turn on and that it blows cold air. Doing this step earlier will allow you to call for service now, rather than waiting until the first hot day, like everyone else, and companies are too busy.

Of course, sometime during the warm months, we highly recommend a checkup of the system by a professional service technician. Checkups include cleaning coils and debris from inside unit, flushing the drain, checking out all the vital components including refrigerant levels and monitoring electrical systems. This will help keep operating costs down and extend the life of your system.