

SHREVEPORT FIRE

D E P A R T M E N T

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Ronald C. Mulford, Fire Chief

Furnace Maintenance

Why is an annual furnace maintenance so important? By getting a regular Home Heating Tune-Up or a Check-Up, you know your furnace is running safely and at peak efficiency. That means peace of mind and you'll save energy and money.

Do It Yourself Tips

Turn Off Gas and Electricity to Furnace

As with all home repairs, the first step is to turn off the power and in this case, the fuel. There should be a switch near the furnace, if not, check the electrical service panel and shut off the appropriate breaker. The gas line will be connected to the furnace in a black pipe and will have a shut off valve nearby. Turn the valve so it is perpendicular to the gas line to shut it off.

Vacuum the Furnace Interior

Open the furnace door. With a vacuum cleaner having a long snorkel attachment, vacuum out the base of the furnace and the gas burners. Get all the crevices cleaned of any loose dust or debris.

Change the Air Filter

The furnace filter is the one component that needs to be checked and possibly changed monthly during the heating season.

Check the Fanbelt

Check the fanbelt on your furnace that drives the blower. Inspect the belt for glazing, cracking or fraying. If any of those signs are evident, replace the belt. Also check the belt tension.

Lubricate Oil Bearings

If your furnace is older or if it has a motor without permanently sealed bearings, the bearings will need to be oiled. Find the oiling caps. Drop a few drops of lightweight household oil in the oil spout below the caps. Don't over oil.

Clear Outdoor Exhaust Vents

During the winter, be sure to clear snow and ice away from the intake and exhaust vents outdoors. If the vents become blocked, dangerous carbon monoxide fumes can back up into the house, and the furnace could shut down.

Replace Furnace Cover and Reconnect

Once completed, replace the furnace cover and turn the electrical power back on along with the gas. Relight the pilot if necessary

*****If you are not familiar with this process, please contact a professional.*****