

HOME ASSESSMENT DON'TS

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DON'T NEGLECT REGULAR MAINTENANCE

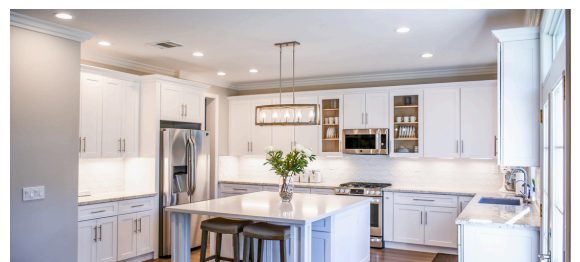
Routine checks on your heating and cooling system (HVAC) might not seem like a priority, but neglecting regular maintenance can have consequences. By overlooking regular check-ups on items like your HVAC and small appliances, you run the risk of reduced efficiency, increased energy consumption and, ultimately, higher bills.



- **Change Air Filters Regularly:** Replace the air filters every 1-3 months, or as recommended by the manufacturer. Clean filters improve airflow, increase system efficiency, and reduce the strain on your HVAC unit.
- **Clean the Condenser and Evaporator Coils:** Check and clean the condenser and evaporator coils at least once a year. Dirty coils reduce the system's ability to cool your home and can cause it to overheat. Use a soft brush or vacuum cleaner to remove dust and debris.
- **Inspect and Clean Ductwork:** Inspect ductwork for leaks, blockages, or disconnections. Clean the ducts periodically to remove dust and allergens that can affect indoor air quality and HVAC efficiency.
- **Clear Debris Around Outdoor Units:** Ensure that the outdoor condenser unit is free from debris, such as leaves, grass, and branches. Keep at least 2 feet of clearance around the unit to allow for proper airflow and operation.
- **Schedule Professional Maintenance:** Have a professional HVAC technician inspect and service your system at least once a year. They can check for issues that might not be obvious, perform necessary tune-ups, and ensure everything is running efficiently.

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DON'T OVERLOOK SMALL DETAILS

Tiny leaks and drafts might seem inconsequential, but their impact on energy efficiency is significant. For those movable areas (think doors and windows), grab some weatherstripping and seal the gaps. It's like wrapping a gift in sturdy packaging tape, ensuring that no matter the season, your home remains sealed from external elements. For areas that are stationary (pipes, plumbing, siding), use caulk to seal those crevices. Failing to seal those drafty areas can result in unnecessary energy costs and compromise the effectiveness of your heating and cooling systems.



AVOID THE MISTAKE:

Minimize those pesky leaks and drafts that can drive up your energy costs. Plan to caulk and weatherstrip exterior doors and windows as needed and check them seasonally. Finding gaps underneath your door? Use a door sweep to reduce air leakage. Finally, consider installing foam gaskets behind electrical outlets and switch plates on exterior walls.



DON'T RELY SOLELY ON DIY ASSESSMENTS

In the age of do-it-yourself, it's tempting to believe that you can singlehandedly unravel the mysteries of your home's energy efficiency. However, DIY assessments have their limitations. A partial analysis might lead to incomplete insights, and misinterpretation could steer you in the wrong direction. Make sure that you go in with a plan and are familiar with all the areas you need to inspect. Visit energy.gov and use its Do-It-Yourself Home Energy Assessments to make sure that you hit all the main points in your home including:

- Consider Ventilation
- Check Insulation Levels
- Inspect Lighting
- Assess Appliances and Electronics
- Know When To Call A Professional



DON'T SKIP PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE

Want to dive deeper into your home's energy usage? Don't underestimate the value of expert assistance – it could make all the difference in your home. Certified home auditors possess in-depth knowledge, ensuring that every inch of your home is thoroughly examined.

AVOID THE MISTAKE:

Certified energy auditors are not just for show. These professionals possess in-depth knowledge, ensuring that every inch of your home is thoroughly examined. Check with your energy provider to see if you are eligible for a free home energy assessment. Energy specialists can check your home for air leaks, examine your insulation levels, check your appliances and more.



Energy specialists will help you identify ways to maximize your savings. Plus, many energy providers gift their customers free Energy Efficiency Starter Kits to help you start saving right away. Don't underestimate the value of expert assistance – it could make all the difference in your home.