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## Annual Heating System Maintenance is overlooked By Most People

With the heating season nearly upon us, it is time for homeowners to have their heating equipment maintained. A little bit of preventative action now can reduce the possibility of a future heating system problem. It is recommended that all natural gas or propane gas heating systems be inspected before you really need to have to use them. A failure during a cold snap may mean many hours of waiting for a service person to show up.

It is recommended that you:

- ◆ **Locate a reputable heating service company** – Have a reputable heating service company inspect all aspects of your furnace or boiler system. This inspection may identify things like fan bearings about to fail, the possibility of the heat exchange unit cracking (thereby allowing poisonous carbon monoxide gas to be circulated through the home), and poor gas combustion along with other problems. Having the fan cleaned will allow the furnace better distribute heated air through the home. They should also check for any blockages in the intake and exhaust vents to and from the furnace.
- ◆ **Call before you really need the furnace** – By calling in September or early October, you can usually get prompt service and you may actually get the service done at a discount as the furnace service companies are usually not too busy then. You may also be able to have them do a check-up on your air conditioner.
- ◆ **Change the furnace thermostat battery** – This is a valuable insurance if you are out of town and not having heating system work. The consequences of this are usually many broken water pipes in your home and significant repair costs.
- ◆ **Change the humidifier element and water filter** – You should change them as per the manufacturer's recommendations.
- ◆ **Change the air filter** – This is also a good time to change the filter element.

A little proactive maintenance can make a big difference to your overall comfort and safety over the course of our long heating season.

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