



Tips and trends for homeowners, buyers and sellers



Essential HVAC Maintenance Tips

Regular HVAC maintenance keeps your home comfortable, improves energy efficiency and extends the life of your system. These simple tips can keep your HVAC in top shape no matter the weather outside:

Change filters regularly: Replace air filters every one to three months to ensure clean airflow and reduce strain on the system. Clogged filters force the HVAC to work harder, which increases energy bills and reduces its lifespan.

Clean vents and registers: Accumulated dust and dirt in vents and registers can restrict airflow. Regularly clean these areas with a vacuum or damp cloth to improve indoor air quality and system efficiency.

Check the thermostat: Test it to ensure it's accurate and functioning correctly. Consider upgrading to a programmable or smart thermostat, which allows you to control the temperature efficiently, saving energy costs.

Inspect outdoor units: Clear debris, leaves and overgrown plants at least two feet around the outdoor unit. Proper airflow prevents the system from overheating and ensures consistent performance.

Clean condenser coils: Dirt and grime accumulate on condenser coils over time, reducing efficiency. Use a garden hose to gently clean the coils, but avoid high pressure to prevent damage.

Inspect ductwork: Look for gaps, leaks or blockages in your ducts. Leaking ducts can waste energy and lead to uneven heating or cooling in your home.

Schedule professional tune-ups: Hire an HVAC technician to inspect, clean and fine-tune your system twice a year. Professional maintenance catches small issues before they become costly repairs and ensures peak performance.

Building the Perfect Home Gym

Transforming a space into a home gym can make fitness more accessible and tailored to your needs. Follow these steps to create an effective workout space:

- **Choose the right space:** Pick a spot with good ventilation and enough room for movement. A spare room, basement or garage works well.
- **Set fitness goals:** Define your goals (strength training, cardio, mobility) so you can focus on getting the right equipment.
- **Start with essentials:** Invest in versatile equipment like dumbbells or kettlebells for strength training, resistance bands and yoga blocks for mobility and a treadmill or stationary bike for cardio.
- **Organize smartly:** Use shelves, wall hooks or storage racks to keep the space tidy and equipment accessible.
- **Consider flooring:** Install rubber mats or foam tiles to protect floors and provide cushioning during workouts.
- **Find ways to stay motivated:** Add mirrors, good lighting and music to keep the energy up and track progress.

Creating a home gym tailored to your goals can save time, boost enthusiasm, and make workouts part of your daily routine.



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Things to Consider When Getting New Windows

Replacing windows is a significant investment that can improve energy efficiency, reduce utility costs and enhance your home's comfort. But choosing the right windows involves understanding key factors like energy ratings, materials and installation quality. Here are key things to consider:

- 1 Energy efficiency:** Look for windows with Energy Star ratings or double-pane glass to reduce energy costs and keep your home insulated.
- 2 Material options:** Choose from vinyl, wood, aluminum or fiberglass windows based on durability, aesthetics and maintenance needs.
- 3 Cost vs. value:** While replacing windows can be an investment, it can also boost your home's resale value and save money on utility bills.
- 4 Style and functionality:** Based on your home's design and ventilation needs, consider casement, double-hung or sliding windows.
- 5 Installation:** Proper installation is crucial. Work with a trusted professional to ensure windows are sealed correctly to avoid drafts.
- 6 Climate considerations:** Choose windows designed for your local weather to improve comfort and durability year-round.
- 7 Maintenance:** Evaluate how much upkeep the material and style require to keep your windows looking and functioning their best.



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