

Why Are My Utility Bills So High?

#1 Reason:

Inefficient heating and cooling equipment

Did you know that your Heating/Cooling system represents more than 60% of your entire energy bill? If you have an older, inefficient heating and cooling system, NOTHING you do will make a bigger impact on your bill than installing a modern, efficient system.

- Old gravity vent gas furnaces were 60% efficient when new – which means 40% of your energy dollars have just been going up the flue.



- Old air conditioners with an “8 Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating” (8 SEER) are terribly inefficient compared to 26! (Old heat pumps also have similarly low SEER ratings.)



#2 Reason:

Lack of Service

Did you know that the only way to keep your system operating at its money-saving peak is to keep it regularly serviced? Regular service is fast and easy. What's nice, too, is that the cost is often offset by the return in energy savings.

- **Gas furnaces need to have burners cleaned and adjusted** to provide proper combustion air.
- **Blower wheels need to be cleaned** to deliver proper air flow across the heat exchanger and maintain proper temperatures.
- **Filters need to be changed** on a regular basis. Dirty filters cause blowers to work harder to deliver air through the ductwork.
- **Motor capacitors need to be checked.** Defective capacitors increase amp draw on motors, resulting in higher utility bills.
- **Heat exchangers need to be checked.** A cracked heat exchanger can leak dangerous carbon monoxide into the air stream and into the living space.
- **Venting of the furnace needs to be checked.** A blocked or partially blocked flue will cause the furnace to malfunction. This can cause safety concerns and improper combustion in the furnace.
- **Heat pump reversing valves need to be checked.** The refrigerant cycle involves changing the state of refrigerant from liquid to gas during each cycle. An improper charge increases utility costs and reduces the life of the compressor.
- **Heat pump compressors need to be checked.** Both "start" & "run" capacitors aid in reducing power usage by reducing amp draws. They need to be checked regularly and replaced as needed.