

ANSWERS TO THE 4 MOST COMMON HVAC PROBLEMS



From air duct and air filter problems to short cycling, here are the four most common cooling and heating problems that U.S. homeowners encounter.

1. SHORT CYCLING

Short cycling is when your home's cooling and heating system keeps starting and stopping instead of running consistently. Short cycling is a problem:



It results in additional wear-and-tear to your system, especially on the compressor.



HVAC systems draw more power at startup, so a cycling system will waste electricity or gas.



Cycling systems are unable to cool or heat your home effectively, resulting in hot and cold pockets.

Cycling issues are commonly caused by:



INCORRECT SIZING

An HVAC system that is either too large or too small for your home will likely short cycle.



CLOGGED AIR FILTER

Insufficient airflow will lead to an air conditioner or furnace having cycling issues.



LOWER REFRIGERANT

In AC units and heat pumps, low refrigerant levels contribute to short cycling.

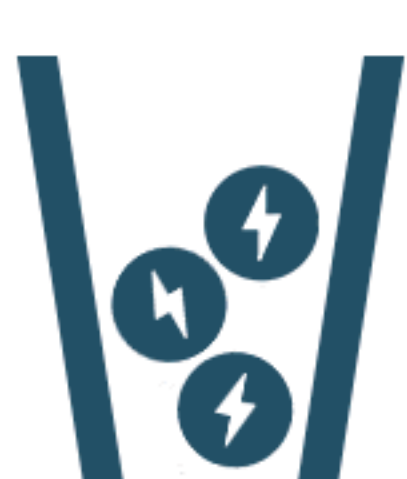
2. DIRTY AIR FILTERS

An air filter that restricts airflow to your HVAC system will eventually lead to:



HVAC SYSTEM FAILURE

Air is required to run and cool the system, so components overheat if not enough air is drawn in.



ENERGY WASTE

The blower has to work that much harder to push air through a clogged filter, wasting energy.



POOR INDOOR AIR QUALITY

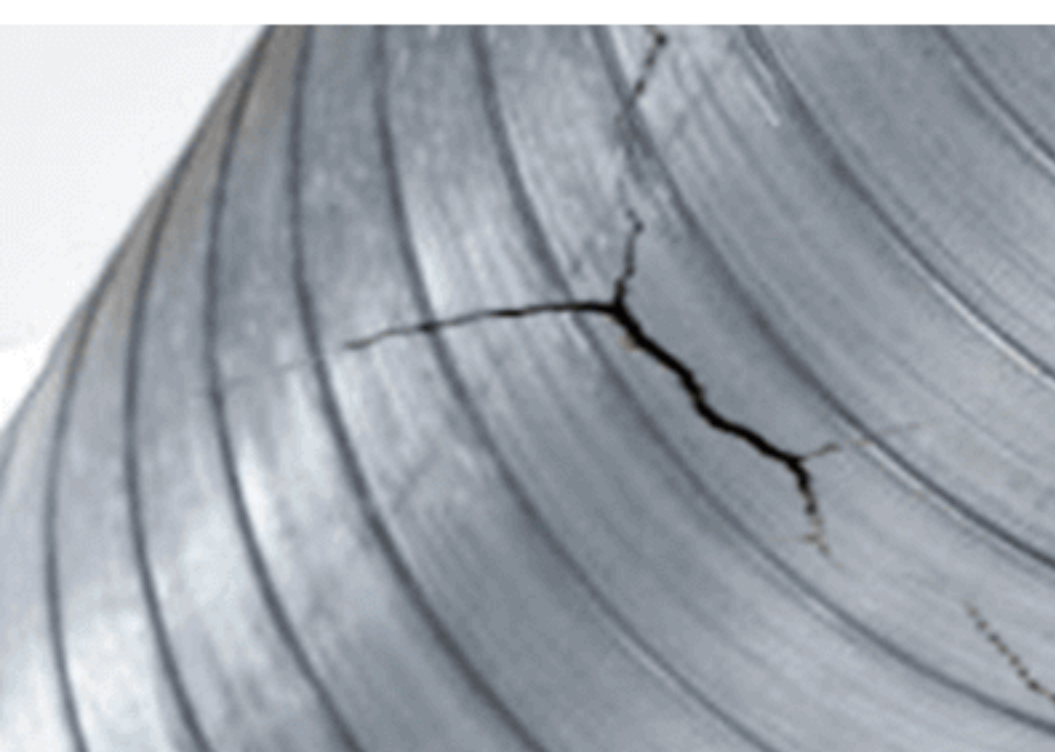
As air is pushed through a dirty filter, the air in your home is filled with particulate matter.

3-6 MONTHS

To avoid these issues, you should either clean or replace your filter every 3-6 months.

3. AIR DUCT LEAKS

As your AC or furnace pushes warmed or cooled air through the ductwork to your home, a good portion of it ends up being lost through:



CRACKS



PINHOLES



SEPARATED DUCTS

While every home is different, the average American home is wasting hundreds of dollars due to air duct leaks:

20-30%

The average network of ducts loses this much of its cooled and heated air through leaks.

In addition to having your ducts repaired and sealed, you may also want to consider having an HVAC professional:



ADD MORE ATTIC INSULATION



SEAL AROUND DOORS AND WINDOWS



PERFORM A HOME ENERGY AUDIT

4. SKIPPED TUNE-UPS

Professional annual maintenance is essential for any HVAC system. Without a yearly checkup, cooling and heating systems are more likely to:



BREAK DOWN



OPERATE LESS EFFICIENTLY



COOL OR HEAT YOUR HOME LESS EFFECTIVELY

SYSTEM	SEASONAL TUNE-UP
AIR CONDITIONERS	SPRING
FURNACES	FALL
HEAT PUMP	SPRING
DUCTLESS SYSTEMS	FALL

You could see the dividends of preventive maintenance in the coming months:

15%

A seasonal tune-up can lower your cooling and heating costs by more than 15%.

Have questions about the way your HVAC system is acting, or need to schedule your seasonal tune-up? Talk to a locally trusted heating and cooling professional in your area.