

SEK Heat & Air's HVAC Q&A

By Chris Cotter, General Manager – Adapted from articles published in the SEK Q&A Times

Question:

How do I prepare my Air Conditioner for Spring and Summer?

Answer:

It is good thing that you are starting to think about your HVAC system before the weather really heats up. The last thing you want do is to have to sweat it out when you find that it does not work on that first really hot & humid day.

When an air conditioner sits unused and unmaintained for months, you will likely run into some problems when you go to use it for the first time. Throughout the fall and winter, debris has likely collected on or around the unit. When the unit is turned on, the air will pull the dust into the unit's inner workings, which can cause serious and costly damage.

Having your unit serviced by an **HVAC professional** is usually money well-spent. By cleaning and running a thorough check of the system, HVAC technicians may be able to decrease the energy consumption of your A/C system and increase its overall efficiency, as well as prevent potential breakdowns and extend the life of your unit.

While it is always best to have a licensed HVAC technician service the unit each year, there are some things you can do yourself to prevent damage and help get the unit ready to run for the summer.

First, be sure to **remove all of the debris** from on and around the unit. Trim away bushes and trees so they provide a space of 2-3 feet, to allow for proper circulation and prevent leaves from collecting on or around the condenser.

It is also a good idea to clean or **replace air-handler filters** at least twice a year. This will not only assure that you are getting a great airflow, it will reduce the amount of dust and allergens you are circulating into the air.

If you suspect problems with the sealed refrigeration system, it is time to call a service technician. Repairs to the refrigeration system are not simple do-it-yourself jobs and mistakes in this area could be both costly and dangerous.