

# 5 Common Heating and Air Conditioning Questions from Homeowners

## 1. Does a bigger heating or cooling system offer better performance?

Simply put, no. Bigger is not necessarily better. When it comes to size, the most important consideration is getting the *right* size for your home based on square footage, layout, orientation and your lifestyle. A system that is too big will operate on short cycles, starting and stopping more frequently. A system that is too small will run continuously. Both issues cause excessive wear and tear, shortening the life of your system, as well as wasting energy. Before choosing a new heating or cooling system, make sure your HVAC professional does a thorough inspection and a load calculation on your home.

## 2. Is it best to repair or replace my HVAC system?

Most experts advise that if your system is in need of frequent repairs and is more than 12 years old, or if it stops working altogether, replacing it with a new, more reliable and efficient system can save you money in the long term.

## 3. Does my air conditioning system need a filter?

Yes! The air filter is a crucial component of your air conditioning system. It keeps dust, dirt and debris out of the equipment and ductwork, and prevents those particles from re-circulating throughout your home. The filter keeps the air in your home clean and keeps your furnace clean and functioning properly and efficiently.

## 4. How often do air filters need to be replaced?

For best performance, replace one-inch air filters every one to three months, depending on how quickly they get dirty. Some other types of filters, such as thick high-efficiency filters, are designed to last longer. Refer to the manufacturer's recommendations for your specific system.

## 5. How long do HVAC systems last?

With proper, regular professional maintenance as well as regularly changing the air filters, the various components of your HVAC system (including air conditioner, furnace, heat pump and water heater) can last 10-15 years or more. Thermostats can last as long as 25 years.

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