

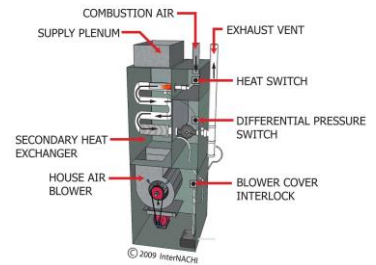
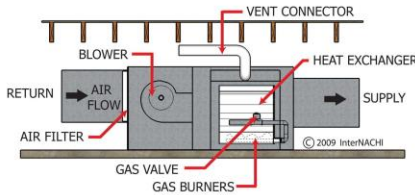
BRRRR... Maybe it's time to fire up that heater.

I love this time of year. Fall is such a wonderful time here in the Treasure Valley with the leaves changing colors, a fire in the fireplace and the temperatures dropping. With this wonderful changing of the seasons, we have certain maintenance tasks that need to be attended to. Hopefully, you've already contacted your roofing contractor to have those roofs inspected and gutters cleaned as we discussed last month. Now, the next system to be looked at is your HVAC system.

The **H**eating, **V**entilation, **A**ir **C**onditioning (**HVAC**) system components typically consist of a gas fired furnace or heat pump located in the attic or garage and a compressor located outside the home and the duct work inside the home. This is called a split system as it has both heating and cooling capabilities with components located in separate areas. As the fall is setting in, it is time to switch from the cooling cycle to the heating cycle on our systems. Now is the perfect time to have your HVAC system inspected and tuned up so your home can remain comfortable throughout the fall and winter.

The most common furnaces we have here in the Treasure Valley are high efficiency heaters typically located upright in the garage or horizontally in the attic. While these are two different types of equipment, they have mostly the same components and maintenance requirements. Calling out a licensed HVAC contractor to inspect these components is the right way to go. Your serviceman will go through a very thorough checklist and inspect all of the electrical and gas connections as well as the safety controls. The inspector will

open the appliance to inspect all the burner, heat exchanger, and blower components for functionality as well as safety. A full inspection will provide insights into, and extend, the life expectancy of your system. Let's face it, don't you want to know *now* if there is an impending breakdown, not when the temps are in the 30's?



On top of the inspection of the major components, it's time to replace the filters in the ducts. Remember all the smoke we had this summer? Well, more than likely your filters are dirty and in need of changing. The more particulates that the filter has cleaned from the air, the more the airflow is restricted making your system work harder to push the air around the house. Now is also the time to also have your ducts cleaned. Clean filters and ducts not only provide a healthier environment but also keep the system balanced and operating properly.

Finally, let's talk about your thermostat. If you still have a manual thermostat, it is time to upgrade to a programmable or smart system. While programmable thermostats allow you to set heating & cooling schedules, smart thermostats allow you to control the environment in your home through your computer or cell phone. Imagine being able to turn the heat up *before* you get home from a trip so that the home is toasty warm on your arrival. This will save you money in the long run as the system can be paused while you are away for a period of time.

So now is the time to call your HVAC company and get your service scheduled. You'll be much warmer and happier this winter.

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