

## Heat Pump and Furnace Maintenance

Maintaining your heating and cooling equipment will help prevent future problems and avoid unwanted costs.

Inspect, clean or change air filters once a month in your central air conditioner, furnace, and/or heat pump. A dirty filter can increase energy costs and damage your

equipment, leading to early failure.

You can keep your cooling and heating system at peak performance by having a contractor do annual pre-season check-ups. Contractors can get busy once summer and winter come, so it is best to check the cooling system in the spring and the heating system in the fall. One way to help you remember is to

plan the checkups around the time changes in the spring and fall.

A typical maintenance checkup should include the following:

- **Thermostat settings:** Check thermostat settings to ensure the cooling and heating system keeps you comfortable when you are home and saves energy while you are away.
- **Electrical connections:** Tighten all electrical connections and measure voltage and current on motors. Faulty electrical connections can cause unsafe operation of your system and reduce the life of major components.
- **Moving parts:** Lubricate all moving parts. Parts that lack lubrication cause friction in motors and can increase the amount of electricity you use.

- **Condensate drain:** Check and inspect the condensate drain in your central air conditioner, furnace and/or heat pump (when in cooling mode). A plugged drain can cause water damage in the house and affect indoor humidity levels.

- **Controls:** Check controls of the system to ensure proper and safe operation. Check the starting cycle of the equipment to assure the system starts, operates and shuts off properly.

### Cooling Systems

- **Coils:** Clean evaporator and condenser air conditioning coils. Dirty coils reduce the system's ability to cool your home and cause the system to run longer, increasing energy costs and reducing the life of the equipment.

- **Refrigerant levels:** Check your central air conditioner refrigerant level and adjust if necessary. Too much or too little refrigerant will make your system less efficient, increasing energy costs and reducing the life of the equipment.

- **Blower components:** Clean and adjust blower components to provide proper system airflow for greater comfort levels. Airflow problems can reduce your system's efficiency by up to 15 percent.

### Heating Systems

- **Connections:** Improperly operating gas (or oil) connections are a fire hazard and can contribute to health problems.

- **Burner combustion/heat exchanger:** A dirty burner or cracked heat exchanger causes improper burner operation. Either can cause the equipment to operate less safely and efficiently.

*This information and other money saving tips can be found at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).*

### KPUD Can Help

If it is time to upgrade your heat pump to a more energy-efficient model, contact Klickitat PUD before you start your project, to learn about program requirements and how you can receive a rebate. For information, call (509) 773-7622 or (800) 548-8357 ext. 622.

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## Community Meetings Coming to a Venue Near You

During the next few months, Klickitat PUD staff and PUD commissioners will attend meetings of the various community and city councils and other community action groups throughout Klickitat County.

Our goal is to reach out and interact with customers in each community, and discuss items of interest specific to each community in relation to the electric, water and

wastewater services provided by KPUD.

Upcoming meetings:

- **May 3:** Snowden Community Council, 7 p.m., at Cherry Lane Fire Station, Husum
- **May 18:** Goldendale Kiwanis, 7 a.m. at the Luau
- **May 26:** High Prairie Association, 7 p.m., Struck Road Fire Hall, Lyle