

Heat Pump and Furnace Maintenance

Maintaining your heating and cooling equipment helps prevent future problems and 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.

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 system in the spring and the heating system in the fall. One way to help remember is to plan the inspections around daylight saving time.

A typical maintenance checkup should include examination of:

- **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 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.** Inspect the 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 ensure the system starts, operates and shuts off properly.

KPUD Can Help

Time to upgrade your heat pump to a more energy-efficient model? Contact Klickitat PUD before you buy to learn about rebate-program requirements. For information, call (509) 773-7622 or (800) 548-8357. ■

Cooling Systems

- **Coils.** Clean evaporate 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 for 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. They also 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.

Community Meetings Heading Your Way Soon

During the next few months, Klickitat PUD staff and commissioners will attend meetings of the various community and city councils, as well as 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 the PUD.

Upcoming meetings:

- April 12: Dallesport/Murdock Town Council, 7 p.m.,

at the Dallesport Community Center.

- April 14: Ponderosa Park Owners Association, 9 a.m., in the KPUD meeting room.
- April 17: Glenwood Community Council, 7 p.m., at the Glenwood Grange.
- April 25: Klickitat Community Council, 6:30 p.m., at the Klickitat Community Center.
- April 26: Bickleton Council, 6 p.m. at the Bickleton Grange Hall. ■