



FALL HVAC SEASONAL CHECKLIST

Fall in Yorktown often brings changing temperatures, lingering humidity, and cool evenings mixed with warmer afternoons. This makes it the perfect time to prepare your HVAC system for the transition from air conditioning to heating. Use this checklist from Extreme Climates to improve comfort, increase efficiency, and reduce the risk of an unexpected breakdown.



FOR YORKTOWN, VA HOMEOWNERS

START WITH THE BASICS



01 Test Your Heating System

- ☐ Turn on your heat before the first cold night arrives.
 - ☐ Let the system run long enough to confirm that warm air reaches every room.
 - ☐ Listen for banging, grinding, rattling, or other unusual sounds.
 - ☐ Watch for short cycling or unusually long heating cycles.
 - ☐ Contact an HVAC professional if you notice persistent odors, unusual noises, or inconsistent heating.
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02 Replace or Clean the Air Filter

- ☐ Inspect the filter for dust, dirt, and debris.
 - ☐ Replace disposable filters or clean reusable ones.
 - ☐ Confirm that the filter is the correct size and installed in the proper direction.
 - ☐ Check the filter monthly, especially if you have pets or family members with allergies.
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03 Check Your Thermostat

- ☐ Switch the thermostat from cooling to heating mode.
- ☐ Confirm that the displayed temperature appears accurate.
- ☐ Replace the batteries if needed.
- ☐ Review your programmed heating and cooling schedules.
- ☐ Consider installing a programmable or smart thermostat to manage Yorktown's fluctuating fall temperatures more efficiently.



HEAT PUMPS, VENTS & HUMIDITY

Check Your Heat Pump

Heat pumps are common throughout Hampton Roads because they provide both heating and cooling. Before colder weather arrives:

- ☐ Test the system in heating mode.
 - ☐ Make sure the outdoor unit is free of leaves, grass, and debris.
 - ☐ Allow adequate airflow around the unit.
 - ☐ Watch for ice buildup, unusual noises, or weak airflow.
 - ☐ Never cover a heat pump that operates throughout the winter.
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Inspect Vents & Registers

- ☐ Make sure all supply and return vents are open.
 - ☐ Move furniture, rugs, curtains, and stored items away from registers.
 - ☐ Vacuum dust and pet hair from accessible vent covers.
 - ☐ Check for rooms that feel noticeably warmer or cooler than others.
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Manage Indoor Humidity

Humidity can remain a concern in coastal Virginia well into the fall. Excess moisture may make your home feel uncomfortable and contribute to musty odors or mold growth.

- ☐ Monitor indoor humidity levels.
- ☐ Check for condensation around windows, vents, and ductwork.
- ☐ Make sure bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans work properly.
- ☐ Have persistent moisture or humidity problems professionally evaluated.
- ☐ Consider a whole-home dehumidifier if your home frequently feels damp.



INSPECT, TEST & SEAL

Inspect Outdoor HVAC Equipment

- ☐ Remove leaves, pine needles, branches, and other debris.
- ☐ Trim vegetation to maintain proper clearance around the unit.
- ☐ Check for visible rust or corrosion, which can be more common in humid coastal environments.
- ☐ Inspect the area after severe weather or coastal storms.
- ☐ Make sure water drains away from the equipment.



Test Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- ☐ Press the test button on every detector.
- ☐ Replace batteries as needed.
- ☐ Check each unit's manufacturer-recommended replacement date.
- ☐ Make sure detectors are installed near sleeping areas and fuel-burning equipment according to applicable safety guidance.
- ☐ Leave the home and contact emergency services immediately if a carbon monoxide alarm sounds.



Look for Air Leaks

- ☐ Check around exterior doors, windows, attic access points, and utility openings.
- ☐ Replace damaged weatherstripping.
- ☐ Seal appropriate gaps to prevent conditioned air from escaping.
- ☐ Consider professional duct sealing if rooms are difficult to heat or cool.



Check the Condensate Drain

- ☐ Because Hampton Roads experiences extended periods of humidity, your HVAC system's condensate drain may continue working into the fall.
- ☐ Look for standing water near the indoor unit.
- ☐ Watch for rusty odors or signs of moisture.
- ☐ Make sure the drain appears unobstructed.
- ☐ Contact a professional if you notice leaking water or recurring drain clogs.



Know When to Call an **HVAC** Professional



Schedule Professional Fall HVAC Maintenance

A professional fall inspection can identify worn parts, airflow problems, electrical concerns, drainage issues, and other developing problems before your system begins working harder.

Regular maintenance can also improve energy efficiency, support reliable performance, and help extend the life of your equipment.

Prepare Now for a More Comfortable Fall and Winter

Completing this fall HVAC checklist can help your system handle Yorktown's changing temperatures and humid coastal conditions. Extreme Climates provides professional HVAC maintenance and repair to keep homes comfortable throughout Yorktown and the surrounding Hampton Roads communities.

Signs Your HVAC System Needs Service

Contact Extreme Climates if you notice:

- ☐ No heat or insufficient heat
- ☐ Weak or inconsistent airflow
- ☐ Unusual noises or persistent odors
- ☐ Frequent system cycling
- ☐ Rising energy bills
- ☐ Uneven temperatures
- ☐ Excessive indoor humidity
- ☐ Water around the indoor HVAC equipment
- ☐ Ice on the outdoor heat-pump unit
- ☐ Repeated thermostat problems

**Schedule your fall HVAC service
before colder weather arrives.**
www.extremeclimatesinc.com