

## Natural Gas Furnace Maintenance

When winter weather hits, a natural gas furnace can keep you warm and cozy all season long. But with warm weather dominating much of the year, it can be easy to forget about your heating system altogether until that first cold front. Make sure the heat turns on when you need it by getting your furnace inspected annually.

### **Avoid surprises**

By hiring a licensed contractor to perform a furnace tune-up annually, you can ensure your heating system will be ready when you need it on a cold day. The Texas Gas Service [26-point furnace tune-up checklist](#) can help the contractor pinpoint potential problems. Problems that go unaddressed could result in more costly repairs down the line, so it's better to identify issues early on.

"It's not just about looking for broken parts. One thing we see a lot of is improper re-attachment of vents. The vent may have been removed during a roofing project and not replaced correctly, which creates a safety hazard," said Tony Estrada, energy efficiency technical specialist for Texas Gas Service.

Estrada has been with Texas Gas Service for 37 years and currently works with contractors to replace natural gas appliances for low-income households in Central Texas.

"Licensed contractors know how to spot these elements that an untrained person might miss," explained Estrada.

### **Extend the life of your furnace**

A furnace is a significant investment so you want it to last as long as possible. Regular maintenance and cleaning is the best way to get the most out of your furnace. Plus, many manufacturers require proof of regular maintenance to honor the warranty.

"There are a lot of parts to a natural gas furnace – motors, belts, blowers, vents, and more. Many of these parts need regular maintenance to make sure they are working correctly, and there is no unnecessary wear and tear," said Estrada.

### **Save energy and money**

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, home heating typically accounts for [42% of utility bills](#). A neglected furnace may run less efficiently, requiring more energy to heat your home. During a furnace tune-up, the contractor can check for and seal leaks as well as adjust the air temperature controls for better efficiency.

When you have a licensed contractor perform an annual furnace tune-up, you may also be eligible for a [\\$40 rebate](#) from the Texas Gas Service Energy Efficiency Program.



“Additionally, an easy and important task year-round is to replace the air filter. You’ll breathe cleaner air and you’ll save energy. If you don’t, you could cause excess wear on your system, possibly leading to bigger problems,” said Estrada.

Just like a car benefits from regular maintenance, a furnace can last longer and save you energy and money when a licensed contractor performs regular tune-ups. Get your furnace tuned up by a licensed contractor today and head into winter without worry.

*If you’re in the market for a new heating system, you may be eligible for a \$675 rebate from the Energy Efficiency Program. [Click here to learn more.](#)*