



How to prepare your heat pump for winter

Is your heat pump designed to withstand the rigors of winter, or are there some things you need to do to keep things running smoothly during the cold of winter? In fact, preparing your heat pump for winter is quite simple; it's all about doing a bit of maintenance. This short guide can help you get things ready.

Prepare your heat pump for winter:

In both summer and winter, your heat pump should be unobstructed so air can circulate properly. Building a makeshift shelter to protect the device is not recommended. However, to ensure that accumulated snow or ice on the roof does not fall on your heat pump fan, you can install a cover designed by the manufacturer. Similarly, if your device is exposed to strong winds, you can install windbreaks. If ice forms on the heat pump, don't chip at it with a tool. Instead, melt the ice with a bit of hot water so you won't damage your device.

How to maintain your heat pump:

The best way to prepare your heat pump for the winter is to properly maintain it and ensure good air circulation at all times. Before winter comes, it would even be a good

idea to have your heat pump inspected by a service person. But you can do a bit of maintenance yourself by following these steps:

- 1) Clean the outside coil of your heat pump with a garden hose after turning your device off and after turning off its connection to the power source.
- 2) Check the filters every month. Clean or replace them according to the manufacturer's recommendations. When dust clogs the filters, airflow is reduced; this makes the machine noisy and less effective. Prolonged obstruction can also damage the compressor. If you wash the filter, make sure it's completely dry before you replace it.
- 3) Clean the coils with a vacuum cleaner or brush.
- 4) Clean the fan once a year. Don't lubricate the engine unless the operator's manual specifies to do so.
- 5) Inspect the pipes and clean them if the airflow is obstructed by an accumulation of dust.
- 6) Make sure nothing blocks the vents. Sometimes objects fall through the grill and obstruct the pipes as well.

Regular heat pump checkups:

When winter comes, check your heat pump regularly to make sure it's working as it should. Why? Because if a breakdown occurs and you don't get it fixed right away, your backup heating system will take over. You don't want an exorbitant energy bill to be the first clue that there's a major problem with your heat pump.