

Save Money by Keeping Clean

Cleaning Coils in Outside Air Conditioning Units

Why Should I Do This?

Once or twice a year, usually at the start of a new season, it's a good idea to clean out your air conditioner's condenser coil. A dirty condenser coil can increase the cost of cooling your home by over 35 percent!

While cleaning a condenser coil sounds more complicated than it really is, it's actually quite an easy task as long as the coil isn't severely stopped up with debris or dirt. If it is severely stopped up, you may want to have it cleaned and inspected by a licensed and insured professional. After that, it's easy to maintain cleaning yourself. And when you are finished, you will have the satisfaction of knowing you have taken action to save money and the environment at the same time.

What you'll need:

- Hose.
- Adjustable pressure hose nozzle.
- Safety glasses and gloves.

STEP
1

Your air conditioner's condenser coil is the outside section of your air conditioner unit. As with all work to your air conditioner, begin by shutting off power to the unit at the outdoor disconnect box or at the main circuit breaker panel.

STEP
2

Give the outside of your air conditioner a good look. Remove any accumulated or large debris such as grass and foliage from the coils.

STEP
3

Cleaning the coils in your air conditioning unit may be as easy as hosing it off. Be sure to adjust the hose spray so it doesn't bend the delicate coil fins or spines. Hose from the inside out first so debris are pushed back out of the coils. Spray from the top and work down.

WARNING:

Be careful not to soak the fan motor if you are spraying around it.

STEP
4

If cleaning from the outside, begin from the top and work your way down until you have reached the bottom. Spray at different angles until the water coming out is clear.

STEP
5

While you are cleaning the condenser coil do not forget to remove any bushes or landscaping that may be encroaching on your unit so that your condenser works more efficiently. Never cover or block your condenser coil with a deck, overhang or wall!

STEP
6

After you've finished rinsing down your unit, restore power.

ENERGY SAVING TIP



- A dirty condenser coil can increase the cost of cooling your home by over 35 percent!
- Review your air conditioning manufacturer's recommended guidelines for clearance around your condenser /c unit, but a general rule of thumb is about 3 to 6 feet where possible.

SAFETY TIPS



- Turn off power to the external unit before cleaning.
- Watch out for wasp nests or fire ant mounds when working around the condenser.
- Wear safety glasses and gloves while doing the work.



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