

HOME SYSTEM

Maintenance

**FIVE WAYS TO SAVE YOU MONEY
AND KEEP YOUR NEST HUMMING
THIS WINTER.**

As the days are getting shorter and temps begin to drop, you'll want to be sure that your HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems are running as safely and efficiently as possible. Thanks to our home systems experts, Jones Heating & Air, located in **Charlottesville, Virginia**, we've come up with five practical things you can do now to save money and keep your home safe:

1. GET A PRECISION TUNE-UP

Schedule a professional HVAC company to perform a tune-up on your heating equipment to prepare it for the winter. A service technician will be able to catch small things like Freon leaks, weakening or failing parts, and the overall cleanliness and safety of your system.

2. CHANGE FILTERS REGULARLY

A clean filter can make a world of difference in how your system performs.

3. MAINTAIN PROPER INSULATION

This allows your HVAC system to do less and still maintain the home's proper temperature. Make sure your attic is properly insulated. This will prevent your warm air from escaping to the outside, which will cause your furnace to run excessively.

4. SEAL LEAKS

Make sure there are no leaks around windows, doors, or other openings. Not only do they let cold air into your home, they let all of the hot air out. Check your chimney for any obstructions, which can also be a safety hazard.

5. CHECK HIGHER THAN NORMAL ENERGY BILLS

This could be an indication that your system is not performing properly and you'll need to schedule a service check.



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For those with functional fireplaces in the home, here are the Jones family's top tips to make sure your fireplace is safe and ready to go before using it this winter:

1. SWEEP THE CHIMNEY

Hire a professional company that can clean your chimney by removing soot and debris. This should be done at least once a year.

2. CHECK FOR DAMAGES

Hire a professional company to make sure the structure and lining of the chimney has no cracks, loose bricks, or deterioration of the mortar. Make sure the chimney is securely attached to the house and there is no water damage.

3. CLEAN THE BLOWER

Not all fireplaces have a blower, but if yours does, it should be cleaned. Most fireplace blowers do not have a filter, so they have to be cleaned to prevent buildup.

4. CAP THE CHIMNEY

By capping the chimney, you are preventing wildlife (birds, squirrels, chipmunks) from coming in. Capping will also prevent rain, leaves, or any type of debris from getting into your house.

5. CHECK SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

It is paramount that you make sure these detectors are in proper working condition and have fresh batteries.