



# The Gauge

Better Heating & Air  
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## CAUTION

### Most Common Air Conditioning Problems

One of the most common problems with the heating and cooling system in a home is improper operation. However, other common problems can be the result of faulty installation, poor service procedures, and inadequate maintenance. Below is a list of the four most common problems with heating and cooling systems.

- 1) **Refrigerant Leaks** - if your system is low on refrigerant, either it was undercharged at installation or it leaks. If it leaks, simply adding refrigerant is not a solution. A trained technician should fix a leak, test the repair, and then charge the system with the correct amount of refrigerant.
- 2) **Inadequate Maintenance** - if filters and coils become dirty the system will not work properly and parts are likely to fail prematurely.
- 3) **Electric Control Failure** - the compressor and fan controls can wear out, especially when the system turns on and off frequently. Electrical connections and contacts should be checked during a professional service call.
- 4) **Drainage Problems** - although this only applies to the system when it is cooling it is still a problem. When it is humid outside check the condensate drain to make sure it is not clogged and is draining properly.

### Did You know?

The first home air conditioner thought to ever be installed was placed in a home in Minneapolis in 1914. The mansion belonged to Charles Gates, son of the Gilded Age industrialist and gambler John Gates.

*Courtesy of National Geographic*

### Truly Breathtaking Isn't It?

As residents of Northeast Tennessee, allergens are a familiar occurrence. The variety of contaminants in our air daily cause many of us to seek medication to ease the suffering from allergies. Through normal occupation in a home, contaminants such as dander, dust, and a variety of other chemicals are constantly compiled. The heating and cooling system in your home does not go untouched by this issue. A fair comparison lies in viewing your HVAC system as the lungs of your home, constantly taking air in and breathing it back out

again. These contaminants are pulled into the HVAC system and re-circulated five to seven times per day, on average. And over time, this re-circulation causes a build-up of contaminants in the duct work. In a typical six-room home, up to 40 pounds of dust alone is created annually through everyday living.

In addition the possible health concerns that could arise from the abundance of contaminants in your home, these same contaminants can cause potential equipment malfunctions. Although filters could be used regularly, the heating and cooling system still gets dirty through normal use. Contaminants in the heating and cooling system cause it to work harder and shorten the life of your system and according to the U.S. Department of Energy, 25 to 40 percent of the energy used for heating and cooling a home is wasted as a result. 

*Content courtesy of the National Air Duct Cleaners Association*



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