



Troubleshooting Home Furnace Problems

Waking up on a February morning with icicles on your eyelashes is no fun. But every homeowner runs into this problem at least once. The following checklists for your furnace, whether gas, oil, or electric, will usually help to keep things humming. We suggest you make your check in August. We also advise that the system be cleaned, oiled, and its safety devices checked at least once yearly by a competent service company.

Checklist for Oil Furnaces

1. Check oil burner emergency switch. It should be in the "on" position. This is also called a remote control switch.
2. Check for blown or loose fuses at main burner switch box or central fuse box. Replace fuses if necessary with fuses of identical amperage.
3. Check water level in gauge glass on your furnace and fill to more than half full at all times (for steam systems only).
4. Raise thermostat to 5 degrees above room temperature and wait 15 minutes. It is not unusual for clock-type thermostats to be out of cycle. You must check to see if the day and night settings have been confused. If so,
5. Check your oil tank gauge to see if you have fuel.
6. Press or turn recycling button at the burner control box. Do this only once or twice. If the furnace runs for a minute or two only, **DO NOT PUSH THE RECYCLING BUTTON AGAIN!** Shut off your emergency switch first and call a serviceman.

Checklist for Gas Furnaces

1. Check furnace switch (electrical), if you have one. It must be in the "on" position.
2. Check for blown or loose fuses at main burner switch box or central fuse box. Replace fuses if necessary with fuses of identical amperage.
3. Check water level in gauge glass on your furnace and fill to more than half full at all times (for steam systems only).
4. Raise thermostat to 5 degrees above room temperature and wait 15 minutes. It is not unusual for clock-type thermostats to be out of cycle. You must check to see if the day and night settings have been confused. If so,
5. Check main gas valve, which must be in the "on" position.
6. In warm air systems, clean and/or replace filter(s).
7. If pilot light is not burning, relight as per instructions attached to the furnace.
8. If none of the above restores furnace to operational order, call utility company or competent serviceman.

Checklist for Electric Heating

1. Check with neighbors to see if there is a local blackout. If so, you'll just have to wait until power is restored.
2. Check main circuit-breaker panel box or fuse box for disconnected switches or burnt fuses. Reset and/or replace as necessary with fuses of identical amperage.
3. Raise thermostat to 5 degrees above room temperature. It is not unusual for clock-type thermostats to be out of cycle. Check to see if day and night settings have been confused. If so, correct.
4. If none of the above restores heating system to operational order, call utility company or competent electrician.

Fire Safety Checklist

Hazard	Yes	No	Correction
Combustible or flammable ashtrays in all rooms?			Use only noncombustible ashtrays.
Careless disposal of glowing matches and cigarettes?			Douse all matches and cigarettes till dead.
Matches in combustible container?			Keep in metal container.
Matches within reach of children?			Keep in high place, out of children's reach.
Family members smoke in bed?			Strict rules against smoking in bed.
Do you run electric cords under rugs and over nails and hooks?			Run cord along baseboard and over doorways.
Keep lamp and appliance cords in bad condition?			Repair frayed lamp and appliance cords.
Overload outlets in your home?			Don't overload.
Use 30 ampere fuses on lighting circuits?			Use 15 ampere fuses for lighting circuits.
Do you use flammable cleaning fluids?			Use only when necessary.
Do you store flammable liquids improperly?			Store in closed containers.
Attic or basement filled with rubbish, papers, oily rags?			Keep free of trash and combustible materials.
Gas range leaking gas?			Call gas company.
Gas range greasy?			Clean top of range.
Is cooking closely supervised?			Be present during cooking.
Is chimney free of cracks?			Repair cracks.
Are chimney flue and furnace cleaned before heating season?			Clean thoroughly before heating season.
Fire escapes in bad condition?			Have landlord repair them.
Fire escapes cluttered?			Remove all items from fire escape.
Do you store paint, varnish, lacquer and enamel improperly?			Store in closed metal containers.