

# If It Can't Breathe It Can't Work!

With summer officially on the calendar it's important to make sure that your air conditioning equipment is operating at peak performance. A dirty outdoor coil is a good way to run up operating costs and repair bills. Make it a habit to check the surface of your outdoor condenser coil and make sure it is clean and moving plenty of air across the coil. Check coil for grass clippings, leaves, spider webs, cottonwood fibers and those pesky plastic shopping bags that blow around the yard and get sucked up into the air-conditioning coil.

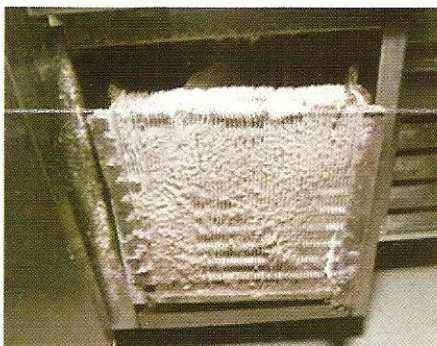
If the coil looks dirty, disconnect the power and rinse the coil with a garden hose. If it is extremely dirty, it might be necessary to use a soft brush and mild liquid dishwashing soap. Use care not to bend the coil fins when cleaning. Once the coil surface is clean, you can reconnect the power and the unit is ready to run.



Keep your unit clear of high grass so that it can pull in plenty of fresh air. Coil blockage increases operating cost and shortens equipment life cycle.

If your equipment has a protective cover around the coil it can still be inspected by looking through the louvers. Cleaning may require the removal of the protective cabinet to gain access to the coil surface. On some units the cabinet is fairly easy to remove requiring nothing more than a nut driver and a bowl to keep track of the metal screws. With some manufacturers a professional service call may be required because the cabinet walls support the fan assembly requiring more tools and expertise when disassembling.

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Poor filter maintenance or unfiltered return air will contaminate a condensing coil making it difficult for equipment to function. This unit will require a professional cleaning costing hundreds of dollars. In the long run proper filter maintenance is cheaper!

The indoor coil must also be kept clean and the best way to do that is by maintaining the air filter. Regularly scheduled filter replacement will keep the coil clean. If you can see the coil is blocked, a professional cleaning is recommended. On most units the coil must be removed to be properly cleaned.

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