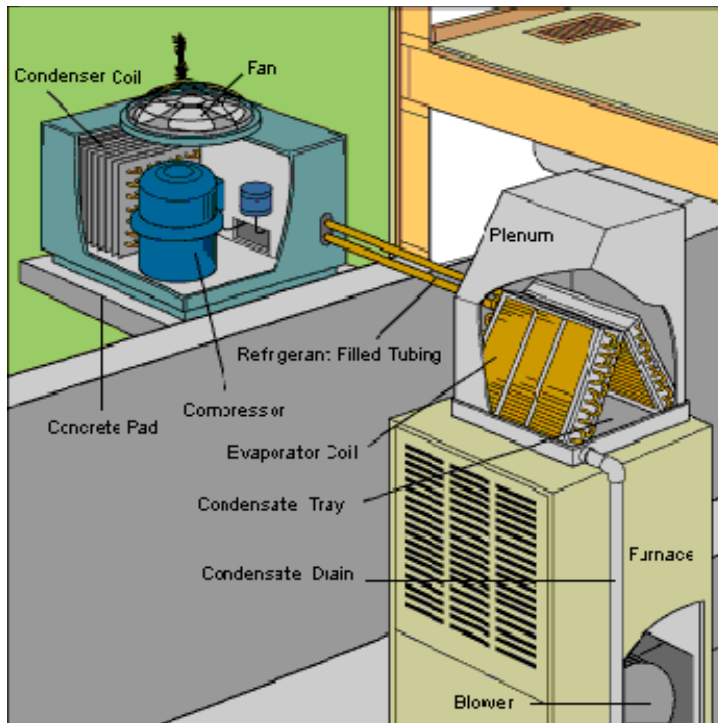


Air Conditioning Intro

In a typical air conditioning system, a refrigerant circulates through a loop of copper tubing that runs between an outdoor coil (the condenser) and an indoor coil (the evaporator).

Refrigerant travels between the two coils, absorbing heat from the room and releasing it outside. In the process, the refrigerant cools the evaporator coils. A blower sends the chilled and dehumidified air into the room. The cooling effect causes the warm air to release its moisture, which drops into a drain pan and is carried away. A heat pump works just like an air conditioner but has a valve that can be reversed to deliver heat (instead of cooled air) to the house.

Central air conditioning is often combined with a forced-air furnace—both share the same blower and ductwork. The furnace's air filter removes dust, hair, and lint and should be checked every month when air conditioning or heating are in use to be sure it is clean. Air conditioners are powered by electricity, and they can use a lot of it, depending on the size of the house and its general weather-tightness. Proper maintenance and service can help reduce the high cost of keeping your house cool.



Central Air Conditioners

If your air conditioner isn't working, first check the circuit breaker or fuse that serves the unit.

Change the fuse or reset the circuit breaker if necessary. If the compressor turns off and won't come back on during a very hot day, the unit may have built up a high head pressure and the high-pressure limit switch may have tripped. Please call Benvenuti for service.

If the air conditioner doesn't cool or isn't cooling effectively, check the thermostat to make sure it is set to "cool" rather than "heat." Dirty evaporator or condenser coils or a dirty filter in the air handler or furnace also can keep air conditioners from cooling effectively. Also, if you operate the air conditioner when the air temperature is below 60°F, you might find frost on the evaporator coils. If you do, it's time to turn off your air conditioner and call Benvenuti for service.

Maintenance



Keeping your air conditioner clean is the key to efficient cooling. Check the filter in the air handler once a month while it is in use and replace or clean the filter as necessary. Check to be sure that the condensate drain is clear (and the condensate pump is working properly if it has one) and that the condenser and evaporator coils are clean.



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When to Call for Help

Call a technician if you have a defective condenser or any problems with the refrigeration system, water leaks, ice on the condenser, or loud noises.

All central air systems should be serviced annually by a licensed technician to ensure proper efficiency and operation.