

HVAC REPAIR VS HVAC REPLACEMENT

When your HVAC system is on the fritz, you're likely to be confronted with a decision: do you repair the unit or replace it? Here are a few factors to take into account when reaching a conclusion about the fate of your unit.



AGE

Air conditioners typically last between 10 and 15 years while the life expectancy of most furnaces is between 15 and 20 years. These lengths differ depending on how well you maintain each unit, but performance does decline as they get older.

COST

The cost of the repair is usually one of the deciding factors between repair and replacement. There are different rules of thumb about where to draw the line, but if the repair is more than 50 percent of the value of the system, it's probably better to replace it.

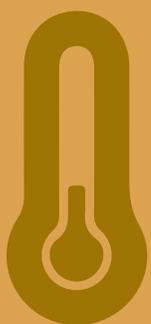


REPAIR FREQUENCY

How often does your HVAC system need repairs? If you're pouring loads of money into repairing your heater or air conditioner multiple times a year, it might be best to replace it. For newer systems that have only had an issue or two, repair might be a better option.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Investing in a new furnace or air conditioner is a big decision. If your heater or air conditioner is bloating your electric bill, it might be well worth the investment. Newer units typically perform better and are more energy efficient, which is good for both the environment and your pocket book.



REFRIGERANT LEVELS

If your air conditioner is leaking refrigerant on a regular basis, it's time to replace it. Refrigerant is expensive to replace and the money spent on coolant may be better put toward a new unit, especially if yours is getting up there in age.

QUALITY OF PERFORMANCE

As mentioned in the energy efficiency portion, newer heaters and air conditioners tend to do a better job at heating and cooling than their predecessors. The upgrade in both of these areas is likely to improve the comfort of your home and your quality of life. That alone is worth the investment in a new unit when it's time to replace.



These are a few factors to keep in mind when deciding to repair or replace a part of your HVAC system. A professional HVAC technician can help you determine the best course of action.

As an HVAC technician, you can help people decide whether their HVAC units need to be repaired or replaced. To start down your path toward becoming a professional HVAC technician, look no further than Coyne College's HVAC Refrigeration program.