



Should I Repair or Replace my HVAC?

If you have experienced a breakdown of your HVAC unit, you may be wondering if you should get it repaired or replace it all together. Here is DTC's guide to decide if it's time for a new, more efficient model.

REPAIR	REPLACE
< 10 Years Old If your system is nearing its teenage years, it's time to start thinking about replacing. But if it's under 10 years old, your system still has life to give.	< 10 Years Old Systems over 10 years of age use older technology and refrigerant, which will make them expensive to repair. And since technology has evolved, you will greatly benefit from replacing.
Good Your HVAC is in fairly good condition if the only issues the technician identifies are ductwork seals or some faulty relays on the board.	Poor Fixing broken compressors or damaged coils would be a major repair, similar to replacing the engine in a car. It's probably better to replace in this case.
< 25% of cost of new unit If you think your repair sounds expensive, get a quote on a new system. If your repair estimate is less than 25% of the cost of a new system, you should make the repair. Also, now is a good time to check if your system is still under warranty.	> 25 % of cost of new unit Replacing may seem expensive, but if the repair quote is more than 25% of the cost of a new system, you should go ahead with the replacement. New systems are energy efficient, so you'll get money back in your energy bills.
> 14 SEER Systems that are have a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) of 14 or more are considered fairly efficient among all those in current operation. Replacing this system with a newer one may not drastically affect your energy usage.	< 14 SEER As of 2015, the U.S. DOE requires that any AC unit sold must have an efficiency of 14 SEER or higher. If your unit's efficiency rating is below that, it's using more energy than necessary. Replacing to a new, higher-efficiency model will greatly educe your energy bills.
Not Recently Breakdowns happen, even on the best systems. A normal amount of repairs is about two within a 10 year span. So if this is your first or second issue, go ahead and repair the system.	Frequent If you have had to call in your HVAC technician three or more times in the last ten years, it's time to retire your HVAC. A new system will work reliably.
Pretty Good When your system is operating, does your home feel comfortable? Your HVAC should be able to reliably keep your home at the temperature you set. If you're happy when it's working, repair it!	Not So Good If you have hot or cold spots in your home, or if your AC is constantly running, or if you're having humidity problems, it's time to replace. With a new system you can address these common concerns.


Age of System


Condition


Cost of Repair


Efficiency


Frequency of Repairs


Comfort