

Airflow Improvement Questions and Answers

Q1) How do I know if my ducts need repairs?

A1) The following can be signs that your ducts need repair and sealing:

- Rooms are too warm or too cold
- High summer and winter utility bills
- Little or no airflow from registers in some rooms
- Air filter gets dirty quickly – needs to be changed more than once a month – indicating leaks in return ducts.
- Streaks of dust at registers or duct connections
- No insulation on visible ducts (those in an attic or crawl space)
- Flexible ducts are tangled or kinked

Q2) What improvements should my contractor make to correct my system's airflow?

- A2)
- Check, measure, and identify leaks with diagnostic equipment.
 - Repair or replace damaged, disconnected, or undersized ducts. Straighten out flexible ducts that are tangled or crushed.
 - Seal leaks and connections with mastic, metal tape, or an aerosol-based sealant. Duct tape should never be used because it will not last. Test airflow after sealing ducts.
 - Seal all registers and grills tightly to the ducts.
 - Insulate ducts in unconditioned areas, like attics and crawl spaces, with duct insulation that carries an R-value of 6 or higher.
 - Include a new filter as part of any duct system improvements.
 - Ensure there is a return duct in every room that has a supply duct.

Checking airflow may be done during the installation of your new system or as a special visit or during normally scheduled maintenance, tune up or repairwork.

