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## **FURNACE MAINTENANCE GUIDE**

Here at Alert Heating keeping you happy is our main concern. We have a few tips for your winter heating season, which may prevent an unnecessary service call.

1. Check your filter to make sure it is clean. Hold it up to a light to help you determine that.
2. If your thermostat takes batteries, we suggest changing them at least every 2 years. Most thermostats take 2 AA batteries.
3. If you have a flow thru humidifier, we suggest changing the pad annually. If you have a float style humidifier, we suggest upgrading it.
4. If you have a condensate pump we suggest adding one cup of bleach to the reservoir once a month. That will kill bacteria or mold that could be living in there.
5. The code for CO detectors is one on every floor. We recommend Nighthawk made by Kidde with the digital PPM number. The goal is for it to read 000. Spend the extra money and have at least one of them in your house. It could save your life!
6. Make sure no registers are blocked, they need room to breathe.
7. Keep all combustibles away from the furnace and more importantly, the hot water tank.
8. If you have a high efficiency (90%+) furnace, you have plastic vent pipes on the side or back of your house. We normally see 3 things happen with these:
  - i. In the fall leaves can get sucked in if there is no intake screen on the end.
  - ii. In the winter, during heavy snow, the intake can get blocked by snow.
  - iii. In extreme cold (zero degrees or below), ice can build around the intake pipe. You can clear it using your hand or a glove. Sometimes a hand held hairdryer can be priceless in helping to remove ice.
9. If Alert Heating installed your high efficiency furnace, you have what we call a "zero plug". Go to your furnace and unscrew the 2" plastic plug and your burner will come on in 20 seconds. Put it back on once the daily high temperature gets above 15°F.