TORONTO DUCTWORK

Duct Cleaning & Maintenance

Professional duct cleaning using truck-mounted equipment, NADCA standards, filter maintenance, and ongoing duct system care

18 Expert Answers from Duct IQ

torontoductwork.com/construction-brain

Table of Contents

1. Can I install an in-duct allergen filter to reduce pollen in my Toronto home during spring?
2. Should I have my Toronto home ductwork cleaned after a kitchen fire or smoke damage?
3. Does having hardwood floors versus carpet affect how often I should clean my Toronto home ducts?
4. Should I clean my ductwork before or after having new insulation blown into my Toronto attic?
5. Can duct cleaning remove cigarette smoke residue from ductwork in a Toronto home I just bought?
6. Is ozone treatment of ductwork safe for my family in a Toronto home?
7. Why does my Toronto home smell musty when the furnace or AC turns on?
8. How often should I have my ductwork cleaned in a Toronto home with pets?
9. Is duct cleaning actually worth it or is it a scam in the Toronto market?
10. Should I clean my ductwork after a Toronto home renovation or remodel?
11. What is included in a professional duct cleaning service in the GTA?
12. Can dirty ductwork cause health problems for my family in our Toronto home?
13. How do I spot a duct cleaning scam in the Toronto area?
14. Does duct cleaning improve the efficiency of my HVAC system in Toronto?
15. How long does a full duct cleaning take for a typical Toronto home?
16. What should I do to prepare my Toronto home ductwork for the heating season?
17. Is it worth having a spring duct inspection after a Toronto winter?
18. What maintenance should I do on my Toronto home ductwork before summer cooling season?

Q1

Can I install an in-duct allergen filter to reduce pollen in my Toronto home during spring?

Yes, you can add in-duct filtration to reduce pollen and allergens in your Toronto home — but the success of that upgrade depends almost entirely on whether your existing duct system can handle the increased airflow resistance a higher-efficiency filter creates.

Here is what you need to understand before buying anything.

How in-duct filtration works and what your options are

Your furnace or air handler already has a filter slot, and that is the most practical place to upgrade filtration. Standard 1-inch fibreglass filters (MERV 1-4) do almost nothing for pollen — they exist to protect the equipment, not your lungs. Upgrading to a MERV 11-13 pleated filter captures the vast majority of pollen particles (most pollen ranges from 10-100 microns, well within the capture range of a MERV 11 filter) without creating excessive static pressure in most residential duct systems. MERV 13 is the sweet spot for allergy sufferers — it captures pollen, mould spores, pet dander, and fine dust while remaining compatible with most residential systems.

Going beyond MERV 13 — into MERV 16 or HEPA territory — is where you need to be careful. These filters create significantly higher static pressure resistance. If your duct system was not designed for that resistance, the blower motor works harder, airflow drops, the heat exchanger can overheat, and you end up with worse comfort and a shorter equipment lifespan. A dedicated whole-home HEPA bypass filtration unit (installed as a side-stream unit parallel to the main duct, not in-line) solves this problem, but it requires professional installation and costs $1,500-$3,500 installed.

GTA spring context — why this matters here specifically

Toronto's spring pollen season is genuinely aggressive. Tree pollen (birch, oak, maple) peaks from late April through May, grass pollen follows through June, and the Lake Ontario shoreline effect keeps humidity elevated, which helps pollen stay airborne longer in lakefront neighbourhoods like the Beaches, Mimico, and Port Credit. Running your furnace fan continuously on the FAN ON setting (not AUTO) during peak pollen weeks turns your duct system into a whole-home air scrubber, cycling indoor air through the filter even when the furnace is not heating. This is one of the most cost-effective allergy management strategies available.

One critical GTA housing stock issue: if your home is pre-1980s, your return air system is likely undersized — often a single return grille on the main floor. A high-MERV filter on an already-restricted return air system can drop system airflow dangerously. Before upgrading your filter, have a contractor check your system's static pressure or at minimum measure airflow at your supply registers before and after the filter change.

Practical steps to do this right

Start by checking your furnace manual for the maximum recommended MERV rating — most modern furnaces accept MERV 11-13 without issue. Switch to a 4-inch or 5-inch deep pleated filter if your filter slot accommodates it (these have much more surface area than 1-inch filters, reducing static pressure while maintaining filtration efficiency). Change the filter every 60-90 days during spring and fall pollen seasons rather than the standard 90-day interval. Seal any gaps around the filter frame with foam weatherstripping — unfiltered air bypassing the filter edge is extremely common and defeats the purpose entirely.

For a more robust solution, an electronic air cleaner or a media filter cabinet (like an Aprilaire 2410 or similar) installed in the duct system provides MERV 11-16 equivalent filtration with lower static pressure than a standard high-MERV filter. These run $400-$900 installed and are a worthwhile upgrade for serious allergy sufferers.

When to hire a pro

Swapping a filter yourself is a straightforward DIY task. Installing a media filter cabinet, electronic air cleaner, or bypass HEPA unit requires a ductwork professional — it involves cutting into the supply or return plenum, fabricating sheet metal transitions, and ensuring the system is properly balanced afterward. If you are unsure whether your system can handle a higher-MERV filter, a ductwork contractor can measure static pressure across your system in about 30 minutes and give you a definitive answer.

Toronto Ductwork can match you with a local ventilation and ductwork professional for a free estimate — find contractors through the Toronto Construction Network at torontoconstructionnetwork.com.

Q2

Should I have my Toronto home ductwork cleaned after a kitchen fire or smoke damage?

Yes — after a kitchen fire or smoke damage, professional duct cleaning is strongly recommended, and in many cases it is essential before running your HVAC system again. Smoke particles, soot, and combustion byproducts infiltrate duct systems rapidly when a fire occurs, and circulating that contaminated air through your home creates serious health risks and persistent odour problems that won't resolve on their own.

What Happens to Your Ductwork During a Kitchen Fire

When smoke fills your kitchen, your HVAC system becomes a distribution network for everything in that smoke — soot, carbon particles, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and in serious fires, partially combusted plastics or

synthetics that release toxic compounds. If the furnace or air handler was running during or after the fire, it actively pulled smoke through the return air grilles and pushed contaminated air to every room in the house. Even if the system was off, smoke migrates through return grilles by natural pressure differences, coating the interior surfaces of ducts, the blower wheel, the evaporator coil, and the heat exchanger.

Soot is not just a nuisance — it is acidic. Left on metal duct surfaces, it causes corrosion over time. On the evaporator coil, soot dramatically reduces heat transfer efficiency and can cause the coil to freeze. On the heat exchanger, soot buildup creates a fire hazard and can cause cracking if the system is run before cleaning. The smell of smoke in your ductwork will reactivate every time your furnace or air conditioner runs, re-contaminating the air in your home for months or years if not properly addressed.

Do not run your HVAC system until the ductwork has been professionally assessed and cleaned. Running the system circulates contaminated air and embeds soot deeper into fibreglass insulation inside the ducts, making remediation significantly harder and more expensive.

What Proper Post-Fire Duct Cleaning Involves

Standard duct cleaning — the kind you'd do for general maintenance — is not sufficient after smoke damage. Post-fire remediation requires source removal with agitation (rotary brushes or compressed air whips), high-powered negative pressure (truck-mounted equipment pulling 4,000 CFM or more), and HEPA filtration to capture fine soot particles. The blower wheel, evaporator coil, and supply and return plenums must all be cleaned, not just the duct runs. In serious fires, the flex duct inner liner or fibreglass duct board may need to be replaced entirely because soot embeds in porous materials and cannot be fully cleaned.

Ask specifically for a **NADCA-certified** (National Air Duct Cleaners Association) contractor — NADCA's ACR standard covers post-restoration cleaning and is the benchmark for insurance-grade duct remediation work. Many GTA insurance claims for fire and smoke damage cover professional duct cleaning, so contact your insurer before booking — they may have preferred restoration contractors or require specific documentation.

GTA-Specific Considerations

Older Toronto homes — particularly pre-war and post-war housing in Riverdale, The Annex, Leslieville, and East York — often have original galvanized steel ductwork with decades of accumulated dust and debris. In these homes, smoke contamination combines with existing buildup to create a particularly stubborn remediation challenge. If your home has older duct board or fibreglass-lined ducts, replacement is often more cost-effective than cleaning after significant smoke exposure.

Budget $500-$1,500 for post-fire duct cleaning in a typical GTA home, more if duct replacement is required. This is almost always covered under homeowner's insurance for fire and smoke damage claims — document everything

with photos before any cleaning begins.

After cleaning, have your HVAC technician inspect the heat exchanger, blower motor, and evaporator coil before restarting the system. A cracked heat exchanger after fire exposure is a carbon monoxide risk that must be ruled out before the furnace runs.

Toronto Ductwork can match you with experienced local ductwork and ventilation professionals through the Toronto Construction Network — find contractors in your area at **torontoconstructionnetwork.com/directory?trade=hvac**.

Q3

Does having hardwood floors versus carpet affect how often I should clean my Toronto home ducts?

Floor type has minimal direct impact on duct cleaning frequency, but hardwood floors may actually reveal dust accumulation more visibly than carpet, potentially indicating when your ducts need attention. The primary factors determining duct cleaning frequency in Toronto homes are your HVAC filter quality, pet ownership, renovation dust, and overall home air sealing rather than flooring material.

Hardwood floors and dust visibility create an interesting dynamic for Toronto homeowners. Carpet acts as a massive dust and allergen reservoir, trapping particles that would otherwise circulate through your duct system. When you replace carpet with hardwood, you eliminate this "dust sponge" effect, which means more particles remain airborne and get pulled into your return air system. However, hardwood also makes dust accumulation much more visible on surfaces, giving you better visual cues about your home's overall dust levels and potentially indicating when your ducts may need cleaning.

The real duct cleaning drivers in GTA homes are much more significant than flooring choice. Homes with pets should consider duct cleaning every 3-5 years due to pet hair, dander, and tracked-in debris. Recent renovations generate enormous amounts of fine dust that infiltrates ductwork despite plastic barriers — post-renovation duct cleaning is often essential. Poor-quality furnace filters (the blue fiberglass ones that cost $1) allow massive amounts of dust into your duct system, while high-efficiency MERV 11-13 pleated filters capture particles before they reach the ducts. Toronto's urban environment also contributes construction dust, pollen, and particulates that accumulate in ductwork over time.

For most Toronto homes, professional duct cleaning every 5-7 years is appropriate, regardless of flooring type. However, you might notice the need sooner with hardwood floors because dust doesn't hide in carpet fibers.

Signs that indicate duct cleaning regardless of flooring include: visible dust blowing from supply registers when the system starts, musty odors when the furnace or air conditioning runs, family members experiencing increased allergy symptoms, or visible mold growth around vent openings.

Focus on prevention rather than frequent cleaning. Use high-quality pleated filters (MERV 8-13) and change them every 1-3 months depending on your home's dust load. Seal air leaks around windows, doors, and the building envelope to reduce dust infiltration. Keep return air grilles clean and unobstructed. Regular vacuuming of hardwood floors with a HEPA-filtered vacuum actually helps your duct system by removing particles before they become airborne and get pulled into returns.

When you do need duct cleaning, hire a NADCA-certified company using truck-mounted equipment with source removal technique. Expect to pay $300-$700 for legitimate whole-house duct cleaning in the GTA. Avoid companies advertising $99 specials — these are bait-and-switch operations that either provide inadequate cleaning or aggressively upsell unnecessary services.

The transition from carpet to hardwood is actually an opportunity to assess your overall indoor air quality strategy, including duct condition, filter quality, and ventilation effectiveness. Toronto Ductwork can help you find qualified ductwork professionals to evaluate your system and recommend appropriate cleaning intervals based on your specific home conditions.

Q4

Should I clean my ductwork before or after having new insulation blown into my Toronto attic?

You should clean your ductwork before having new insulation blown into your attic. Once loose-fill insulation covers your ducts, accessing them for cleaning becomes extremely difficult and expensive, often requiring partial insulation removal.

Why Clean First Makes Sense

Attic ductwork in Toronto homes accumulates significant debris over time — dust, construction materials, rodent droppings, and in older homes, potentially asbestos fibers from deteriorated duct wrap. When loose-fill cellulose or fiberglass insulation is blown over dirty ducts, you're essentially sealing in contaminants that will continue circulating through your home's air supply. Professional duct cleaning removes this accumulated debris and allows you to inspect the duct system for damage, loose connections, or inadequate sealing before it's buried under R-50+ insulation.

The cleaning process also reveals duct condition issues that should be addressed before insulation installation. Many GTA homes have flex duct that has sagged, kinked, or become disconnected over the years. Crushed or disconnected ducts dramatically reduce airflow and waste energy — problems that become nearly impossible to fix once covered with blown insulation. Professional duct cleaners using truck-mounted equipment and source removal techniques can identify these issues while the ducts are still accessible.

GTA Climate Considerations

Toronto's extreme temperature swings make proper duct sealing critical before adding attic insulation. When new insulation raises your attic's R-value from R-12 to R-50+, winter attic temperatures will drop significantly — potentially reaching -25°C during cold snaps. Any air leaks in your ductwork become much more problematic when ducts are surrounded by extremely cold air rather than a moderately cold attic. Sealing duct joints with mastic and UL 181 foil tape before insulation installation prevents condensation problems and energy waste that would be expensive to fix later.

Practical Installation Sequence

Schedule duct cleaning first, followed by any necessary duct repairs or sealing work. Many ductwork contractors offer package deals that include cleaning, sealing, and minor repairs. After ductwork is cleaned and sealed, have the insulation contractor blow in new material. Make sure they're aware of duct locations to avoid damaging connections during installation. Quality insulation contractors will use markers or flags to identify duct runs before blowing insulation.

Cost Considerations

Professional duct cleaning costs $300-$700 for a typical GTA home, while accessing ducts after insulation installation can add $500-$1,500 to the cleaning cost due to insulation removal and replacement. The timing also affects insulation installation — blown insulation settles better around clean, properly sealed ducts, maximizing the thermal performance of your investment.

When to Hire Professionals

Both duct cleaning and attic insulation installation require professional expertise in Toronto's climate. Look for NADCA-certified duct cleaning companies using truck-mounted equipment, and insulation contractors experienced with GTA housing stock. Legitimate duct cleaning involves source removal with agitation and HEPA filtration — avoid $99 whole-house deals that are typically bait-and-switch scams.

Need help finding a ductwork contractor? Toronto Ductwork can match you with local professionals who understand the proper sequence for attic upgrades in GTA homes.

Q5

Can duct cleaning remove cigarette smoke residue from ductwork in a Toronto home I just bought?

Duct cleaning alone cannot fully remove cigarette smoke residue from ductwork. While professional duct cleaning will remove loose debris and some surface contamination, nicotine and tar create sticky, penetrating residues that bond to duct surfaces and require specialized treatment beyond standard cleaning methods.

Cigarette smoke residue presents unique challenges in ductwork systems. Nicotine and tar particles don't just sit on surfaces — they penetrate into porous materials and create chemical bonds with metal surfaces. Standard duct cleaning uses mechanical agitation and vacuum removal, which effectively removes dust, debris, and loose particles, but struggles with the sticky, resinous nature of tobacco residue. The residue also tends to concentrate in areas with lower airflow, such as return air plenums and dead-end branches, where it can persist for years.

Professional duct cleaning is still the essential first step and will provide significant improvement. A reputable NADCA-certified company using truck-mounted equipment will remove loose tobacco particles, debris, and surface contamination throughout the system. This typically costs $300-$700 for a GTA home and should include cleaning all supply and return ducts, the furnace blower compartment, and accessible plenum surfaces. However, you'll likely need additional treatments to fully address embedded odours.

For complete smoke residue removal, consider these additional steps: Duct sanitization using EPA-approved antimicrobial treatments can help neutralize remaining odours after mechanical cleaning. Some companies offer ozone treatment, though this requires vacating the home for 24-48 hours and has mixed effectiveness on tobacco residue. Sealing accessible ductwork with duct mastic after cleaning can encapsulate any remaining residue and prevent future off-gassing. In severe cases, particularly with galvanized steel ductwork in older Toronto homes, sections of heavily contaminated ductwork may need replacement.

The HVAC system components beyond ductwork also need attention. The furnace blower, evaporator coil, and filter compartment likely contain significant tobacco residue. Replace the furnace filter immediately and plan to change it monthly for the first few months. The evaporator coil may need professional cleaning, and in extreme cases, replacement. Don't overlook the return air pathways — many older GTA homes have panned joist returns (sheet metal nailed under floor joists) that are impossible to clean effectively and may need replacement with proper return ductwork.

Timing considerations for the GTA market: Schedule duct cleaning and any additional treatments before moving in, if possible. Spring and fall are ideal seasons when contractors have better availability and you won't be running heating or cooling systems heavily. If you're planning other renovations, coordinate ductwork cleaning with painting and flooring — construction dust can quickly re-contaminate cleaned ducts.

Need help finding a ductwork contractor experienced with smoke remediation? Toronto Ductwork can match you with professionals who understand the specific challenges of tobacco residue removal in GTA homes.

Q6

Is ozone treatment of ductwork safe for my family in a Toronto home?

Ozone treatment of ductwork is not safe for your family and is not recommended by health authorities or legitimate HVAC professionals. While some companies market ozone generators for duct cleaning or mold remediation, ozone is a lung irritant that can cause serious respiratory problems, especially for children, elderly family members, and anyone with asthma or other breathing conditions.

Why Ozone Treatment Is Problematic

Ozone (O_3) is a reactive gas that's toxic to humans at concentrations needed to be effective against mold or bacteria. Health Canada, the EPA, and the American Lung Association all warn against using ozone generators in occupied spaces. Even when applied to ductwork while the home is unoccupied, ozone residue can linger in the system and continue to off-gas when the HVAC system runs. The gas doesn't just disappear — it can remain

trapped in duct insulation, flex duct linings, and porous materials throughout the system.

In Toronto's climate, where homes are sealed tightly for energy efficiency during our long heating season, any ozone residue becomes concentrated in the indoor air. This is particularly concerning for GTA families who spend 90% of winter months indoors with windows closed. Children and elderly family members are most vulnerable to ozone exposure, which can cause chest pain, coughing, throat irritation, and worsen asthma symptoms.

Effective Alternatives for Duct Cleaning

Legitimate duct cleaning uses **source removal** — physically dislodging contaminants with rotating brushes and removing them with powerful truck-mounted HEPA vacuum systems. NADCA-certified companies in the GTA use this method, which costs $300-$700 for a typical home but actually removes dust, debris, and biological contaminants rather than just treating them with chemicals.

If you're dealing with mold in your ductwork, the solution isn't ozone treatment — it's finding and eliminating the moisture source. In Toronto homes, duct mold typically results from condensation on poorly insulated ducts in basements or attics, or from humid air being drawn into the system through leaky return ducts. Professional duct sealing with mastic, proper R-8 insulation on all ducts in unconditioned spaces, and addressing humidity sources solve the problem permanently.

Red Flags to Avoid

Be extremely wary of any company that offers ozone treatment, especially as part of a low-cost duct cleaning package. This is often a sign of an unqualified operator. Similarly, avoid companies promoting UV lights, antimicrobial sprays, or other chemical treatments as primary duct cleaning methods. These are add-on services that don't replace proper mechanical cleaning.

When to Address Duct Contamination

If you suspect mold or significant contamination in your ductwork, hire a NADCA-certified duct cleaning company that uses truck-mounted equipment and follows source removal protocols. For persistent mold issues, consult with a qualified indoor air quality specialist who can identify moisture sources and recommend proper remediation — which may include duct replacement in severely contaminated systems, improved insulation, or installation of an ERV system to manage humidity while maintaining fresh air exchange.

Need help finding a legitimate ductwork professional? Toronto Ductwork can match you with qualified contractors who use safe, effective cleaning methods rather than potentially harmful chemical treatments.

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- Norseman Construction & Development
- Metro Rent-All
- Vista Builders Ltd
- Leveloff.LTD

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Q7

Why does my Toronto home smell musty when the furnace or AC turns on?

A musty smell when your HVAC system kicks on almost always indicates mould or mildew growth somewhere in the duct system, on the evaporator coil, or in the area around the air handler — and Toronto's humid summers make this an extremely common complaint across the GTA. The smell is caused by mould spores and volatile organic compounds released when air blows across contaminated surfaces and carries them into your living spaces.

The most common source is the **evaporator coil and condensate drain pan** inside your furnace or air handler. During cooling season, the evaporator coil gets cold and moisture from the air condenses on it — exactly like a cold glass sweating on a humid day. This moisture drains into a pan and out through a drain line. If the drain line becomes clogged with algae, dust, or debris (which happens frequently in GTA homes), standing water accumulates in the drain pan, creating a perfect breeding ground for mould and bacteria. When the system runs, air blows across this contaminated standing water and distributes the musty odour throughout the house. Having an HVAC technician clean the coil and flush the drain line is a straightforward fix that typically costs **$150 to $300**.

Mould growth inside the ductwork itself is the second most common cause. In Toronto's humid summers, with humidex values regularly exceeding 40 degrees, any duct surface that is cooler than the surrounding air will develop condensation. Supply ducts carrying 12 to 15 degree air through a humid basement or attic sweat heavily if they are not insulated with at least R-8 duct wrap and a vapour barrier. Over time, this condensation promotes mould growth on the exterior of the duct, on surrounding insulation, and eventually on the interior duct walls. The musty smell is strongest when the system first turns on because stagnant air in the ducts has been in contact with mould colonies during the off-cycle.

Older GTA homes with **panned joist return air plenums** — where floor joist cavities are used as return ducts — are especially prone to musty odours. These improvised ducts pull air from crawlspaces, wall cavities, and other damp areas, bringing moisture, dust, and mould spores directly into the air stream. They cannot be effectively sealed or cleaned, and replacing them with proper return ductwork is the permanent solution at **$300 to $800 per return run**.

Before spending money on duct cleaning, **identify and fix the moisture source first**. Duct cleaning alone will not solve a mould problem if the conditions that caused the mould are still present. Check for condensation on duct surfaces, standing water in the drain pan, humidity levels above 50 percent in the basement, and any signs of water intrusion near the ductwork. A dehumidifier in the basement, set to maintain 40 to 50 percent relative humidity, can help prevent condensation on cold duct surfaces during summer.

If the smell persists after addressing moisture issues, professional duct cleaning by a NADCA-certified company using truck-mounted equipment costs **$300 to $700** and can remove accumulated mould, dust, and debris from inside the duct system. Be wary of companies offering whole-house duct cleaning for $99 — these are bait-and-switch operations that will not resolve your problem.

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- Vista Builders Ltd
- Focus on Flooring and General Contracting

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Q8

How often should I have my ductwork cleaned in a Toronto home with pets?

For Toronto homes with pets, professional duct cleaning every 3 to 4 years is a reasonable guideline, compared to the standard 5 to 7 year recommendation for pet-free homes. However, the real answer depends on how many pets you have, their shedding level, whether anyone in the household has allergies or asthma, and whether you are maintaining your furnace filter diligently.

Pet hair and dander are lighter than regular household dust and stay airborne longer, which means they get pulled into the return air system more readily. Once inside the ductwork, pet hair accumulates on duct walls, around register boots, and on the evaporator coil. Over time, this buildup restricts airflow, reduces system efficiency, and becomes a food source for dust mites and bacteria. If you have multiple shedding pets — say two dogs or a dog and a cat — the accumulation happens significantly faster, and cleaning every 2 to 3 years may be warranted.

The single most important thing you can do between professional cleanings is **change your furnace filter regularly**. With pets in the home, standard 1-inch filters should be changed every 30 to 60 days rather than the typical 90 days. The filter is your first line of defence against pet hair entering the duct system. Consider upgrading to a **MERV 11 or MERV 13 filter**, which captures finer particles including pet dander. MERV 13 filters catch particles as small as 0.3 microns, which includes most allergens. Be aware that higher-MERV filters create more

airflow resistance, so confirm with your furnace manual or an HVAC technician that your blower can handle the upgrade without excessive static pressure drop. A 4-inch media filter cabinet (replacing the standard 1-inch filter slot) costs **$200 to $400 installed** and provides far better filtration with less airflow restriction because of its larger surface area.

Regularly vacuum and clean your return air grilles and supply registers — pet hair accumulates on these surfaces and gets sucked into the system every time the blower runs. Remove floor registers quarterly, wash them with soap and water, and vacuum the visible portion of the duct opening below. This takes five minutes per register and prevents a surprising amount of pet hair from entering the duct system.

When you do schedule professional duct cleaning, choose a **NADCA-certified company** that uses truck-mounted vacuum equipment with HEPA filtration and source removal technique (agitating debris loose from duct walls, then vacuuming it out). This is the only method that effectively removes embedded pet hair and dander from the duct system. A legitimate whole-house duct cleaning in the GTA runs **$300 to $700** depending on the size of the home and number of vents. Companies advertising $99 whole-house specials are running bait-and-switch operations — they will either do inadequate work or pressure you into expensive add-on services.

Watch for signs that cleaning is overdue: visible dust or pet hair blowing from supply registers, musty odours when the system runs, or worsening allergy symptoms indoors. If you notice any of these, do not wait for the next scheduled cleaning — book one promptly.

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Q9

Is duct cleaning actually worth it or is it a scam in the Toronto market?

Legitimate duct cleaning from a reputable company is a real service that provides genuine benefits — but the Toronto market is unfortunately saturated with scam operators that have given the entire industry a bad reputation. Understanding the difference between a professional duct cleaning and a bait-and-switch operation is essential for any GTA homeowner considering this service.

The scam operations are easy to identify. They advertise **whole-house duct cleaning for $49 to $99** through robocalls, door-to-door sales, flyers, and online ads. At that price, they cannot possibly cover the cost of truck-mounted equipment, trained technicians, and the 3 to 5 hours a proper cleaning takes. What actually happens is one of two things: they do a superficial cleaning that accomplishes nothing (running a basic vacuum at a few vents for 20 minutes), or they use the appointment to get inside your home and then pressure you into thousands of dollars of unnecessary services — UV light systems, antimicrobial coatings, dryer vent cleaning at inflated prices, or fabricated claims about mould that requires immediate expensive treatment. These operators prey on GTA homeowners and are the reason many people believe all duct cleaning is a scam.

Professional duct cleaning is a legitimate and worthwhile service when done correctly and for the right reasons. A proper cleaning uses truck-mounted vacuum equipment that generates 10,000 to 15,000 CFM of suction — far more than any portable unit — connected to your trunk line. Technicians insert agitation tools (rotating brushes, air whips, or compressed air nozzles) into each branch duct to dislodge accumulated dust, debris, and contaminants from the duct walls. Everything is pulled to the truck-mounted unit and filtered through HEPA filtration before exhausting outside. The process takes 3 to 5 hours for a typical GTA home and costs **$300 to $700** — that is the real price of professional work.

Duct cleaning is worth the investment in specific situations. If your home had **renovations that generated drywall dust, sawdust, or construction debris**, duct cleaning removes that contamination before it circulates through your home for years. If you have **purchased a home and do not know its maintenance history**, cleaning gives you a fresh start. If you notice **visible dust blowing from supply registers, musty odours, or worsening allergy symptoms**, cleaning can help — though you should also identify and address the underlying cause. And in homes with **pets, smokers, or occupants with respiratory conditions**, more frequent cleaning (every 3 to 5 years) is worthwhile.

Duct cleaning is **not necessary as a routine annual service**. For a well-maintained home with regular filter changes and no specific contamination events, cleaning every 5 to 7 years is sufficient. It is also not a substitute for addressing underlying problems — if your ducts have mould, the moisture source must be fixed or the mould will return within months regardless of how thoroughly the ducts are cleaned.

To find a legitimate company, look for **NADCA (National Air Duct Cleaners Association) certification**, which requires adherence to industry standards for equipment and technique. Ask whether they use truck-mounted equipment and source removal technique. Get the total price in writing before the appointment — no legitimate

company needs to inspect your system before quoting a ballpark price. If you need help finding a reputable ductwork or HVAC service provider, browse contractors through the Toronto Construction Network directory at torontoconstructionnetwork.com.

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Q10

Should I clean my ductwork after a Toronto home renovation or remodel?

Yes, you should absolutely have your ductwork professionally cleaned after any significant renovation in your Toronto home. Renovations generate enormous amounts of fine dust — drywall compound, sawdust, concrete dust, insulation fibres, and paint overspray — and much of it ends up inside your duct system, even when contractors try to protect supply and return openings during the work.

During a renovation, your HVAC system acts like a vacuum, pulling airborne particles through return air grilles and depositing them throughout the duct network. Drywall dust is especially problematic because it is extremely fine, travels deep into ductwork, coats the interior surface of ducts and the evaporator coil, and recirculates every time the system runs. If your furnace was running during the renovation — which is common during GTA winter renovations when shutting off the heat is not an option — the contamination is even worse. Many GTA homeowners finish a basement renovation or kitchen remodel and wonder why the entire house feels dusty for months afterward. The answer is almost always renovation debris circulating through the duct system.

The timing matters. Wait until all renovation work is completely finished, including final sanding, painting, and cleanup, before scheduling duct cleaning. Having ducts cleaned while work is still ongoing wastes money because new dust will immediately re-contaminate the system. Once the renovation is done, schedule a professional duct cleaning within a week or two before the debris has a chance to compact and harden inside the ducts.

A proper post-renovation duct cleaning in the GTA costs **$300 to $700** for a typical home, depending on the size of the system and the extent of contamination. Some companies charge a premium for post-renovation cleaning because the debris is heavier and requires more aggressive agitation. Make sure the company uses truck-mounted equipment with source removal technique — this means they insert agitation tools into each duct run while the truck-mounted vacuum pulls debris out through the trunk line under strong negative pressure. Companies that just stick a hose into a few registers are not performing legitimate cleaning.

Beyond the ducts themselves, ask the cleaning crew to inspect and clean the evaporator coil (the A-coil above or inside your furnace). Renovation dust that passes through the filter accumulates on the coil fins, reducing airflow and cooling efficiency. A clogged coil can reduce HVAC efficiency by 20 to 30 percent and cause the system to freeze up during summer cooling. Also replace your furnace filter immediately after cleaning — install a fresh MERV 11 or MERV 13 filter to capture any residual fine particles.

For major renovations in older Toronto homes — particularly pre-1975 homes in neighbourhoods like East York, Scarborough, or Etobicoke — have the renovation contractor test for asbestos in existing duct tape, insulation, or vermiculite before any demolition begins. Disturbing asbestos during renovation and then running the HVAC system can spread fibres throughout the entire home. If asbestos is found, professional abatement is required before any

duct cleaning. Post-renovation duct cleaning is one of the most worthwhile investments you can make to protect indoor air quality and get your HVAC system running efficiently after construction wraps up.

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Q11

What is included in a professional duct cleaning service in the GTA?

A legitimate professional duct cleaning in the GTA includes cleaning all supply ducts, return ducts, trunk lines, the supply and return plenums, register boots, and the blower compartment using truck-mounted vacuum equipment and mechanical agitation tools. The goal is source removal — physically dislodging debris from duct surfaces and extracting it from the system, not just blowing it around.

The process starts with the technician inspecting your system, usually by removing a few registers and looking inside with a camera or mirror. They will then connect a large-diameter vacuum hose from the truck-mounted equipment to your main trunk line, creating strong negative pressure throughout the entire duct system. While the system is under negative pressure, the technician works through each supply and return register individually, inserting rotating brushes, air whips, or compressed air tools into each branch duct to agitate and dislodge dust, pet hair, debris, and biological material stuck to the duct walls. The negative pressure pulls everything toward the truck-mounted vacuum, which filters the air through HEPA filtration before exhausting it outside.

A thorough cleaning should cover every register in the house — supply and return — plus the main trunk lines, transition fittings, register boots, and the blower compartment inside the furnace. Many reputable companies also include cleaning the furnace blower fan and housing as part of the service, since dust accumulation on blower blades reduces airflow and efficiency. Some companies offer evaporator coil cleaning as an add-on for an additional **$100 to $200**, which is worth considering if the coil has not been cleaned in several years.

The entire process takes **3 to 5 hours** for a typical GTA home with 10 to 20 registers. A two-person crew is standard — one technician operates the truck equipment and manages the main vacuum connection while the other works through each register inside the home. When they finish, the technician should show you before-and-after photos or video from inside the ducts, reinstall all registers, and replace or recommend replacing your furnace filter.

What a professional service costs in the GTA is **$300 to $700** depending on the size of your home, number of registers, and the company. Be extremely cautious of companies advertising $99 or $149 whole-house duct cleaning — these are almost always bait-and-switch operations. They get in the door at a low price, then upsell chemical sanitizers, UV lights, or mould remediation at inflated prices, or they perform a superficial cleaning that does not actually address the contamination. Look for NADCA-certified companies (National Air Duct Cleaners Association), which follow industry standards for source removal cleaning.

What should NOT be included without your explicit consent is chemical sanitizers, deodorizers, or antimicrobial coatings sprayed inside the ducts. These products are not necessary for routine cleaning and some can irritate respiratory systems. If a company pushes these products aggressively, that is a red flag. Legitimate duct cleaning is a mechanical process — agitation and extraction — not a chemical treatment.

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Q12

Can dirty ductwork cause health problems for my family in our Toronto home?

Dirty ductwork can contribute to indoor air quality problems that affect your family's health, particularly for household members with asthma, allergies, or compromised immune systems. Your duct system circulates air through every room in your home hundreds of times per day, and whatever is inside those ducts — dust, pet

dander, pollen, mould spores, bacteria, insect debris — gets distributed throughout your living spaces every time the furnace or air conditioner runs.

The health impact depends on what is actually in your ducts. Normal household dust accumulation over a few years is unlikely to cause serious problems for healthy adults, though it can aggravate allergy and asthma symptoms. The real health concerns arise when ducts contain **mould growth, rodent or insect contamination, or construction debris**. Mould inside ductwork is particularly common in GTA homes because of our high-humidity summers — when cold air conditioning supply ducts pass through warm, humid basements or attics, condensation forms on the duct exterior and can migrate to the interior through unsealed joints. Once mould establishes inside ductwork, spores are blown into every room whenever the system runs. Symptoms of mould exposure include persistent coughing, sneezing, watery eyes, headaches, and worsening asthma. In older Toronto homes — especially post-war bungalows and split-levels across Scarborough, North York, and Etobicoke — decades of accumulated dust combined with moisture intrusion creates an environment where mould thrives undetected inside ducts hidden in walls and ceilings.

Rodent and insect contamination is another serious health concern. Mice commonly nest inside ductwork in GTA homes, particularly in basement duct runs and panned joist return plenums. Mouse droppings and urine inside ducts become airborne particles that circulate through the home, and exposure to mouse allergens is a documented trigger for asthma attacks. If you hear scratching inside your ducts or notice a musty, ammonia-like smell from certain registers, have the system inspected and cleaned.

It is important to understand that **duct cleaning alone does not solve mould problems**. If mould is growing inside your ducts, cleaning removes the existing growth, but the moisture source that caused the mould must be identified and fixed — whether that is condensation from uninsulated ducts, a leaky humidifier connection, or water intrusion from a foundation crack. Without addressing the root cause, mould will return within months.

Practical steps to protect your family's health include changing your furnace filter every one to three months with a MERV 11 or MERV 13 filter, which captures fine particles including mould spores and pet dander. Have your ducts professionally cleaned every 3 to 5 years, or sooner if you notice visible mould, rodent evidence, excessive dust, or musty odours from registers. If family members are experiencing unexplained respiratory symptoms that improve when they leave the house and worsen when they return, your duct system should be one of the first things investigated. A professional duct cleaning with inspection costs **$300 to $700** in the GTA and can provide peace of mind about what your family is breathing.

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Q13

How do I spot a duct cleaning scam in the Toronto area?

The biggest red flag for a duct cleaning scam in Toronto is the price — any company offering whole-house duct cleaning for $99 to $149 is running a bait-and-switch operation. Legitimate duct cleaning requires truck-mounted equipment, a trained two-person crew, and 3 to 5 hours of work. That costs **$300 to $700** for a typical GTA home, and no company can deliver a real cleaning at a fraction of that price and stay in business.

The bait-and-switch works like this: the company advertises an absurdly low price through flyers, robocalls, or online ads. Once inside your home, the technician does a quick, superficial pass through a few registers with a portable vacuum, then "discovers" mould, asbestos, or some other alarming finding that requires immediate treatment costing $500 to $2,000 or more. They pressure you to agree on the spot, often using scare tactics about health hazards or threatening that your furnace warranty will be voided. Some of these companies spray chemical "sanitizers" or "antimicrobial coatings" inside your ducts at enormous markups — products that are unnecessary for routine cleaning and may actually irritate respiratory systems.

Here are the specific warning signs to watch for. Unsolicited robocalls or door-to-door salespeople offering duct cleaning deals are almost always scam operators — reputable duct cleaning companies do not cold-call or go door to door. If a company cannot provide a physical business address in the GTA, has no verifiable online presence beyond paid ads, or uses a different company name on the invoice than the one that booked the appointment, walk away. Another major red flag is a company that quotes a price without asking about the size of your home, the number of registers, or the type of HVAC system — these factors directly determine the scope of work and cost.

Legitimate companies will provide a written quote based on your home's specifics before starting work. They use truck-mounted vacuum equipment — you will see a large hose running from your home to a commercial vehicle parked outside. They clean every supply and return register, not just a few accessible ones. They show you the inside of your ducts before and after cleaning. And they never pressure you into add-on services or chemical treatments on the spot.

To protect yourself, look for companies with NADCA certification (National Air Duct Cleaners Association), which requires adherence to industry cleaning standards. Check that the company has a valid business licence with the City of Toronto or your municipality, read recent reviews from multiple sources, and ask for references from recent GTA customers. Get at least two or three quotes from different companies before committing, and be suspicious of any quote that is dramatically lower than the others.

If you have already been scammed, report the company to the **Better Business Bureau of Central Ontario** and the **Ontario Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery**. Toronto Ductwork can help match you with reputable duct cleaning professionals through the Toronto Construction Network so you can get the job done

properly.

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Does duct cleaning improve the efficiency of my HVAC system in Toronto?

Duct cleaning can improve HVAC efficiency, but the impact depends on how dirty your ducts actually are — a system with moderate dust accumulation will see a modest improvement, while a system with heavy debris buildup or a clogged evaporator coil will see a more noticeable difference. The honest answer is that for most GTA homes with reasonably maintained duct systems, duct cleaning alone is not going to dramatically reduce your energy bills, but it is one piece of a larger maintenance picture that keeps your system running well.

Here is how dirty ducts affect efficiency. When dust, pet hair, and debris accumulate on the interior surfaces of your ductwork, they create a layer of insulation that slightly reduces heat transfer — but more importantly, heavy buildup narrows the duct opening and increases resistance to airflow. Your furnace blower has to work harder to push air through restricted ducts, which increases electricity consumption and puts additional wear on the blower motor. In severe cases, debris buildup in ductwork — combined with a dirty evaporator coil and a clogged filter — can reduce system airflow by 20 to 30 percent. That means your furnace or air conditioner runs longer cycles to reach the thermostat set point, burning more gas or electricity and shortening the equipment's lifespan.

The bigger efficiency gain often comes not from cleaning the duct surfaces but from what the cleaning process reeals. A good technician will identify **disconnected ducts, open joints, crushed flex duct runs, and missing insulation** during the cleaning process. In many older GTA homes — particularly 1950s to 1970s homes across Scarborough, Etobicoke, and the inner suburbs — duct joints have separated over decades of thermal expansion and contraction, and conditioned air is leaking into wall cavities, crawlspaces, and unfinished basement areas. The

average duct system in a GTA home leaks 20 to 40 percent of the air it carries, and sealing those leaks with duct mastic delivers far greater efficiency gains than cleaning alone.

If you want to maximize efficiency, combine duct cleaning with duct sealing and filter upgrades. Have the cleaning crew identify any visible leaks, disconnections, or damaged sections. Then hire a ductwork contractor to seal all accessible joints with duct mastic — a professional whole-house duct sealing costs **$1,500 to $4,000** in the GTA, or **$1,500 to $3,500** for Aeroseal treatment that seals ducts from the inside. Upgrade to a MERV 13 filter if your system can handle the increased airflow resistance (check with your HVAC contractor — some older furnaces need a MERV 11 maximum). These combined steps can reduce heating and cooling costs by 15 to 30 percent in a leaky, poorly maintained duct system.

The bottom line is that duct cleaning is worthwhile maintenance that supports efficiency, but if your primary goal is saving energy, duct sealing and proper insulation of ducts in unconditioned spaces will deliver the biggest return on investment.

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Q15

How long does a full duct cleaning take for a typical Toronto home?

A thorough, professional duct cleaning takes 3 to 5 hours for a typical GTA home with 10 to 20 supply and return registers. If a company tells you they can clean your entire duct system in an hour or less, that is a strong indication they are not performing a legitimate source-removal cleaning — they are likely just inserting a vacuum hose into a few registers and calling it done.

The time required depends on several factors specific to your home. **The number of registers** is the biggest variable — each supply and return register needs to be individually cleaned, with agitation tools inserted into the branch duct to dislodge debris while the truck-mounted vacuum maintains negative pressure on the entire system. A small Toronto condo or townhouse with 8 to 10 registers might take 2 to 3 hours, while a large detached home in Vaughan, Markham, or Oakville with 25 or more registers and a multi-zone system can take 5 to 6 hours. **The layout of the ductwork** also matters — a simple single-storey home with all ducts accessible in an unfinished basement is faster to clean than a two-storey home with ducts running through finished ceilings, walls, and an attic.

The condition of the ducts significantly affects timing as well. A system that has been cleaned within the last 5 years and is in good condition goes faster than a system that has never been cleaned in a 40-year-old Scarborough bungalow. Post-renovation cleaning takes longer because drywall dust, sawdust, and construction debris require more aggressive agitation to remove. If the technician discovers mould, rodent contamination, or severely damaged duct sections, the job may take longer as they document the findings and discuss additional remediation options.

A standard cleaning appointment with a two-person crew follows a predictable sequence. The crew spends the first 15 to 30 minutes setting up — connecting the truck-mounted vacuum to the main trunk line, inspecting the system, and protecting your flooring and furniture. The next 2 to 4 hours are spent working through each register individually with agitation tools. The final 30 to 45 minutes cover cleaning the blower compartment, replacing access panels, reinstalling registers, and walking you through the before-and-after results.

Plan for the crew to need access to every room in your home where there is a supply or return register. Move furniture away from registers before they arrive to save time and avoid delays. Someone needs to be home for the duration, and keep pets secured in a room without registers being cleaned — the noise from the equipment can stress animals. The truck-mounted vacuum running outside is loud, so let your neighbours know if you share walls. Professional duct cleaning in the GTA runs **$300 to $700** and most companies recommend scheduling it every 3 to 5 years for typical households, or more frequently if you have pets, smokers, or family members with respiratory sensitivities.

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Q16

What should I do to prepare my Toronto home ductwork for the heating season?

Preparing your ductwork for the heating season should happen in September or early October — before the first cold night catches you off guard — and involves a systematic check of your furnace filter, registers, accessible duct connections, and ventilation components. These steps take a couple of hours for a homeowner and can prevent comfort problems, efficiency losses, and emergency repair calls during the heating season.

Start with your furnace filter. This is the single most impactful maintenance task for your entire duct system. A dirty filter restricts airflow, forces the blower to work harder, increases static pressure throughout the ductwork, and reduces heating efficiency. Replace disposable filters or clean washable filters before the heating season begins, then check monthly through the winter. A standard 1-inch filter should be replaced every 1-3 months depending on household conditions — homes with pets, renovation dust, or multiple occupants need more frequent changes. If you have a 4-inch or 5-inch media filter, it typically lasts 6-12 months but should still be inspected at the start of heating season. Filters cost $5-$30 depending on type and MERV rating.

Walk through every room and check all supply and return registers. Open every register fully — do not close registers in unused rooms, as this increases static pressure and can damage your blower motor and cause duct leaks at joints. Remove registers and vacuum the boot cavities where dust, pet hair, small objects, and debris accumulate over the summer. Clean the register grilles with soap and water. While you are at each register, turn the furnace fan on and hold a tissue near the grille — it should blow outward steadily at supply registers and pull inward at return registers. Weak or absent airflow at a register that previously worked indicates a disconnected duct, a crushed flex run, or a closed damper.

Inspect accessible ductwork in the basement. Look for obvious disconnections at joints, torn or hanging insulation, rust or corrosion on galvanized steel ducts, and evidence of water staining or mould on duct exteriors. Listen for air leaks while the system runs — a hissing sound at a joint means air is escaping before reaching the register. You can seal accessible joints yourself with duct mastic for $15-$30 in materials. Pay special attention to the connections at the supply and return plenums where ducts meet the furnace — these high-pressure points are common leak locations.

Check your HRV or ERV if you have one. Clean or replace the filters, wash the heat exchange core if the manufacturer recommends it (most do, annually), and clear the condensate drain. An HRV or ERV with clogged filters or a blocked drain will not ventilate effectively and can develop condensation problems during the heating season.

Clear the area around your furnace — remove any stored items within 3 feet to ensure adequate combustion air supply and safe operation. If you have a conventional gas furnace, check that the combustion air intake is clear of debris and not blocked by snow fencing, landscaping, or storage. Schedule a professional furnace tune-up annually — this is separate from ductwork maintenance but critical for safe, efficient heating. A qualified HVAC technician will check gas pressures, heat exchanger integrity, and airflow — issues that affect how your ductwork performs all winter.

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Q17

Is it worth having a spring duct inspection after a Toronto winter?

A spring duct inspection after a Toronto winter is a smart investment, particularly if your home has ductwork in unconditioned spaces like attics, crawlspaces, or garages, or if you experienced any comfort problems, unusual noises, or ice storms during the heating season. Toronto winters subject duct systems to months of thermal stress, and catching problems in April or May prevents them from compounding into expensive failures when cooling season arrives.

Toronto's winter climate is uniquely punishing on ductwork. Over 50 freeze-thaw cycles cause repeated expansion and contraction of metal duct joints, gradually loosening connections that were sealed the previous fall. Flex duct in attic spaces endures temperature swings from -20 degrees Celsius during cold snaps to above freezing during January thaws, which stresses the plastic inner liner and can crack the outer vapour barrier jacket. Ice storms — a regular feature of GTA winters — cause power outages that allow ducts in unconditioned spaces to freeze, and the subsequent thaw can leave moisture damage that is invisible until mould develops months later.

A professional spring inspection typically costs $150-$300 in the GTA and covers a visual examination of accessible ductwork, checking connections at the furnace plenums, testing airflow at registers throughout the home, inspecting attic and crawlspace duct runs for damage, and identifying condensation or moisture issues before cooling season. The inspector should also check that insulation and vapour barriers on ducts in unconditioned spaces are intact — winter damage to duct insulation creates condensation problems the moment you start running air conditioning in June. Catchhing a torn vapour barrier in April and repairing it for $100-$200 prevents the water staining, mould growth, and drywall damage that would develop by August.

Spring is also the ideal time to address duct sealing. After a full winter of thermal cycling, duct joints that were marginal in the fall may now be leaking significantly. A professional duct leakage test measures total system leakage and identifies where losses are occurring. Sealing a typical GTA home's ductwork with mastic and foil tape costs $1,500-$4,000 for the accessible portions, or $1,500-$3,500 for Aeroseal treatment that seals from the inside — particularly valuable for ducts in walls and enclosed chases that cannot be reached for manual sealing.

For homes that had specific winter problems — a room that was chronically cold, banging or popping noises from ductwork, a furnace that seemed to run constantly without reaching temperature, or visible condensation on windows despite running the furnace — a spring inspection is especially valuable because these symptoms indicate underlying duct issues that will also affect cooling performance. An undersized or disconnected duct that caused a cold room in January will cause a hot room in July.

The bottom line is that a $150-$300 spring inspection can identify $200-$500 in preventive repairs that avoid $2,000-$5,000 in damage if left unaddressed through the cooling season. It is particularly worthwhile for homes built before 1990, homes with attic ductwork, and any home that experienced comfort or noise issues during the winter. Toronto Ductwork can connect you with qualified local professionals through the Toronto Construction Network for a free estimate on inspection and any recommended repairs.

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Q18

What maintenance should I do on my Toronto home ductwork before summer cooling season?

Before switching to cooling mode each spring, a few key ductwork maintenance tasks will help your air conditioning run efficiently, prevent condensation problems, and improve indoor air quality throughout the GTA's hot, humid summer months. Most of these tasks are straightforward and can be done by a capable homeowner in an afternoon.

Start with your furnace filter. Replace or clean it before the cooling season begins, even if you changed it recently. A dirty filter restricts airflow across the evaporator coil, reducing cooling capacity, increasing energy consumption, and potentially causing the coil to freeze. For the GTA's humid summers, a pleated filter rated MERV 8 to MERV 11 strikes the best balance between filtration and airflow — higher-rated filters can restrict airflow in older duct systems that were not designed for the added resistance. Plan to check or replace your filter monthly during peak cooling season (June through September) when the system runs frequently.

Clean all supply registers and return air grilles. Remove them from the wall or floor, wash with warm soapy water, dry thoroughly, and reinstall. Dusty, clogged registers restrict airflow and distribute dust and allergens throughout your home when the air conditioning starts up. While the registers are off, look inside the duct opening with a flashlight — if you see significant dust buildup, debris, or visible mould, professional duct cleaning may be warranted. Legitimate duct cleaning in the GTA costs $300 to $700 from reputable NADCA-certified companies using truck-mounted equipment. Be extremely wary of companies advertising $99 whole-house specials — these are bait-and-switch operations.

Inspect any visible ductwork in your basement, utility room, and attic for damage from the winter season. Look for disconnected joints, sagging flex duct, crushed sections, rust spots, water stains, and gaps at connections. Toronto's 50-plus freeze-thaw cycles per winter cause expansion and contraction that loosens duct joints over time. Any visible gaps or disconnections should be resealed with duct mastic or UL 181-rated foil tape — never grey cloth duct tape, which fails quickly in GTA temperature extremes. Sealing accessible duct joints with mastic is a manageable DIY task in an unfinished basement — a gallon of mastic costs $15 to $30 and covers 30 to 50 joints.

Check your condensate drain. Your air conditioning evaporator coil produces condensation that drains through a condensate line. If this line is clogged with algae or debris, water backs up and can overflow onto your furnace, into your ductwork, and onto your basement floor. Pour a cup of white vinegar down the condensate drain to clear biological buildup, and verify that water flows freely through the drain when the system runs.

Open all supply registers throughout the home. If you closed registers in unused rooms during winter, open them before starting air conditioning. Closing too many registers increases static pressure in the duct system, which can damage the blower motor, cause air leaks at duct joints, and reduce overall cooling performance. If you want room-by-room temperature control, ask a ductwork professional about a zoning system with motorized dampers — this is the proper way to control airflow without stressing the system.

Finally, if your home has ductwork running through the attic, inspect the duct insulation for damage, compression, or displaced vapour barrier. Summer cooling creates the worst condensation conditions in attic ducts — cold supply air at 12 to 15 degrees Celsius running through ducts in a 50-degree attic will sweat heavily if insulation is inadequate. R-8 minimum duct wrap insulation is essential in GTA attics.

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