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In most air conditioners, the condenser unit is located outside the house and is prone to accumulate dirt and dirt from trees, mowing and airborne dust. The capacitor has a fan that moves air over the condenser coil. You must clean the coil on the intake side, so before turning off the power to the air conditioner, check which direction the air is moving over the coils. To clean the condenser: Step 1: Cut grass, weeds or vines that have grown around the condenser unit; they can block the airflow. Step 2: Clean the condenser with commercial coil cleaner available in refrigerator supply stores. Instructions for use are included. Rinse coil clean (do not use hose); let dry. Step 3: Clean the fins with soft brush to remove accumulated dirt. You may need to remove the protective grid to reach them. Do not clean the fins with the garden hose, as water can turn dirt into mud and compress it between the fins. Clean fins very carefully: They are made of light-gauge aluminum and are easily damaged. If the fins are bent, they are corrected with finkamm, sold in most appliance parts stores. A fine comb is designed to slide into spaces between the fins. Use it carefully to avoid damaging the fins. Step 4: Check the concrete pad where the capacitor is resting to ensure it is level. Set carpenter's level at the front to back and side to side on top of the unit. If the pad has settled, lift the pad with pry bar or piece 2 x 4, then force gravel or stone under concrete to level it. During autumn and winter, external capacitor units must be protected from the elements to prevent leaf blocking and ice damage. Cover the capacitor unit with a commercial capacitor cover that fits the shape of the unit or use heavy plastic film attached with a sturdy wire. If you've cleaned everything you can and you still don't get cool air, the problem may be the refrigerant. Learn more about what to do in that case on the next page. Advertising Room air conditioners, also called window units, work in the same way central air conditioners do. They are smaller than central systems and often more expensive to operate. Depending on its size, a room unit may cool only the room where it is located, or it may be able to cool adjacent rooms as well. Sandwiched between the coils is a compressor, two fans, an engine and thermostat controls. Dirt is the main enemy of window air conditioners; it can lower the efficiency of the evaporator coil, block the operation of the fan that blows out the cool air, clog filters, and block drain ports. Both of the main components of a room air conditioner are contained in a house. The condenser coils face outside, and the evaporator faces inside. The coils, compressor and engine of an air conditioner in the room are sealed components so that any repairs to them to a professional serviceperson. However, you can make minor repairs and regular regular will keep your device running well. When extensive repairs are needed, you can also save on the cost of a service call by removing the air conditioner from the installation and taking it to the workshop. In winter, air conditioners in the room should be protected from the elements. Either remove the device from its mounting and store it or cover the exterior of the unit with a commercial room air conditioner or with heavy plastic wrap, held in place with duct tape. Caution: Before working on an air conditioner in the room, make sure it is removed from the socket. The air conditioner in the room has either one or two capacitors located behind the control panel and near the fan. Capacitors store electricity even when the power to the unit is turned off. Before you do any work on an air conditioner, take it out and discharge the condenser or you may get a serious shock. The device booklet will show the location of capacitors and tell how to discharge them. Otherwise, let a climate engineer do it. Now that you're ready to work on your air conditioner, try to decide exactly what to do. Look for your problem and fix the chart on the next page. For more articles on home repair, check out the following links. How to repair Central Air Conditioners: If your system sends cold air to all parts of the house, you have central air. Keep the system running cool. Major Appliance Repair: If a/c is not the only thing in your house on fritz, you can learn how to fix other machines in this article. Small appliance repair: Once you've tackled a/c, a toaster or blender works like child's play. Find out how to fix these here. Thermostat maintenance: To make sure there's actually a problem with you being a/c, you can check the thermostat, too. Learn how to calibrate a thermostat. Creative When it's suffocating outside and your window air conditioner doesn't give you relief, you don't want to wait for a professional to show up. Check the following chart to see if the problem is something you can fix yourself. PROBLEM WITH ROOM AIR CONDITIONER TROUBLESHOOTING CHART Possible Cause Solution Unit does not run 1. No power. 1. Check the cord, plug and power outlet. Check for blown fuse or triggered circuit breaker at the main entrance panel; restore circuits. 2. Engine overload or safety barrier. 2. Wait 30 minutes; press the reset button. Repeat if necessary. 3. Change defect. 3. Check terminals and insulation; if there are obvious burns, replace the switch. If the switch looks okay, call a professional. Fuses blow 1. Circuits overloaded. 1. Put on different circuits. 2. Voltage low. 2. Call a professional or power company. Refrigeration plant 1. The thermostat is too high. 1. Lower the thermostat setting 5°. 2. Filter dirty. 2. Clean or replace the filter. 3. Dirty. 3. Clean coils. 4. Condenser blocked from the outside. 4. Make sure that the outer unit of the device is not blocked. 5. Engine defective. 5. Call a professional. 6. Compressor defective. 6. Call a professional. 7. Coolant leakage. 7. Call a professional. Fan runs, but unit not cool 1. The thermostat is too high. 1. Lower the thermostat setting 5°. 2. Thermostat defective. 2. Test thermostat; if defective, replace or call a professional. 3. Rewinds dirty. 3. Clean coils. 4. Engine defect. 4. Call a professional. 5. Compressor defective. 5. Call a professional. The unit cools, but fan does not run 1. The control switch is set incorrectly. 1. Reset the switch; different settings. 2. Fan clogged. 2. Clean and tighten the fan blades. 3. Bent fan blades. 3. Straighten the fan blades. 4. Fan motor defective. 4. Replace the fan motor or call a professional. The device is repeatedly switched on and off 1. Rewind dirty. 1. Clean coils. 2. Filter dirty. 2. Clean or replace the filter. As you can see, there are many parts that can fall into disrepair on an air conditioner. You can learn how to solve many of these, such as how to solve a problem with your computer. For more articles on home repair, check out the following links. How to repair Central Air Conditioners: If your system sends cold air to all parts of the house, you have central air. Keep the system running cool. Major Appliance Repair: If a/c is not the only thing in your house on fritz, you can learn how to fix other machines in this article. Small appliance repair: Once you've tackled a/c, a toaster or blender works like child's play. Find out how to fix these here. Thermostat maintenance: To make sure there's actually a problem with you being a/c, you can check the thermostat, too. Learn how to calibrate a thermostat. Ad Filter, power cable, coils, switch, thermostat, drain ports and fan are important for routinely servicing to avoid major problems. Below are guidelines on how to maintain these key parts. Filter At the beginning of each cooling season and once a month during the season, remove the front grille and clean or replace the filter. If you live in a very dusty area, clean or replace the filter more often. Most room air conditioners have a washable filter that looks like sponge rubber. Clean the filter with a solution of mild detergent and water. rinse well. Allow the filter to dry completely before reinstalling it. Some units have a throw away filter, similar to an oven filter. When this type of filter gets dirty, replace it with a new one of the same type. The power cord connecting the air conditioner to the power outlet may be worn and not provide electricity to the unit. Remove the control panel to check the cord. Unscrew the terminals, and then secure a test wire across the just lead wires. Hook clip of a volt-ohm-milliammeter (VOM) set to the RX1 scale to the legs of the cord connector. If the meter reads zero, the cord will work. If the meter reads higher than zero, replace the cord. Evaporator and condenser coils Cre evaporator and condenser coils at the beginning of the cooling season and every month during the season. If you live in a very dusty area, clean coils more often. Use a vacuum cleaner on these components. If the fins on the coils are bent, they must be corrected with a fine comb sold on most appliance sockets. A fine comb is designed to slide into the spaces between the fins. Use it carefully as the fins are made of light meter aluminum and are easily damaged. The Switch Selector switch, located directly behind the control panel, turns on the device. If the air conditioner is not running on any setting and it receives power, chances are the switch is faulty. To resolve this issue, remove the control panel and locate the switch. Check the contact terminals for burnt insulation or burn marks on the terminals. If there are signs of combustion, replace the switch with a new one of the same type. The switch is held on the control panel or frame with screws; unscrew it and connect the new one in the same way. If you find that the problem may not be the switch, call a professional serviceperson. Drain Ports A's air conditioner works, condensed moisture and water vapor from the evaporator coil channeled through drain ports or an opening between the partition in the center of the evaporator coil and the condenser coil. At this point, the fan blows the moisture against the condenser coil where the water dissipates. Drain ports may become clogged with dirt. The result is water leaking from the appliance, usually through the bottom of the grille. To avoid clogging, clean the ports with a short piece of wire hanger or the blade of a pocket knife. Do this at the beginning of each cooling season and every month during the season. Also check the condenser side of the air conditioner. Some models have a drainage port along the lower edge of the chassis frame. If your air conditioner has this drainage port, clean it out when you clean the other ports. Engine and compressor there are problems in the air conditioner engine or compressor, call a professional servicer. The problem may not be in the mechanics of your device at all; it may be the thermostat. Learn how to check and replace a thermostat on the next page. For more articles on home repair, check out the following links. How to repair Central Air Conditioners: If your system sends cold air to all parts of the house, you have central air. Keep the system running cool. Major Appliance Repair: If a/c is not the only thing in your house on fritz, you can learn how to fix other machines in this article. Small appliance Once you have tackled a/c, a toaster or blender acts as a child's play. Find out how to fix these here. Thermostat maintenance: To make sure there's actually a problem with you being a/c, you can check the thermostat, too. Learn how to calibrate a thermostat. Advertising Maintenance of thermostat on your home air-conditioned window unit is essential to keep the whole system functioning properly. It will not be a difficult or arduous task if you follow the guidelines mentioned below. What you need You would like these tools to be available to test or replace a thermostat: Screwdriver Volt-ohmmeter or multimeter replacement thermostat Thermostat Thermostat is located behind the control panel. To test and/or replace the thermostat: Step 1: Remove grid and control panel from the device. Thermostat has special sensing bulb attached to it; this part extends from thermostat to evaporator coil area. Its role is to sense temperature, which is controlled by thermostat. Step 2: Remove the thermostat carefully because you need to return the sensing bulb to identical spot later. To make the replacement easier, you need to feel the position of the bulb before removing the thermostat. Step 3: Check thermostat with VOM set to RX1 scale. Cut probes of tester to thermostat terminals, and turn the temperature control dial to the coldest setting. If the meter reads zero, the thermostat will function correctly. If the reading is higher than zero, the thermostat must be replaced with a new one of the same type. If the thermostat is held on control panel or frame with screws, clips or metal tabs, connect new thermostat in the same way as the old one. Note: If the thermostat has more than two lead wires connected to it (without counting the sensor bulb cord), do not attempt to test or replace it. Instead, call a professional serviceperson. The fan in your air conditioner also needs routine maintenance. Learn how to keep it running on the next page. For more articles on home repair, check out the following links. How to repair Central Air Conditioners: If your system sends cold air to all parts of the house, you have central air. Keep the system running cool. Major Appliance Repair: If a/c is not the only thing in your house on fritz, you can learn how to fix other machines in this article. Small appliance repair: Once you've tackled a/c, a toaster or blender works like child's play. Find out how to fix these here. Thermostat maintenance: To make sure there's actually a problem with you being a/c, you can check the thermostat, too. Learn how to calibrate a thermostat. Ad The fan, engine and compressor require routine maintenance to keep your air conditioner running at its most efficient. The following are some simple guidelines. What you want to do these tools available to repair a room air conditioner fan: Vacuum Soft cloth screwdriver or Allen wrench Long-blade screwdriver screwdriver 20-weight nondetergent motor oil Volt-ohmmeter or multimeter Fan When a fan malfunctions, the problem is usually loose or dirty knives. If the fan will not function or if it is noisy, cleaning and tightening will usually fix it. How to repair the air conditioner fan: Step 1: Open the cabinet and find the fan. Step 2: Clean any dirt with vacuum and soft cloth. Step 3: Check the fan blade on the motor shaft to lose it. The blade is attached to the axle with the setcrew at the blade hub. Tighten setcrew with screwdriver or unbrackey. If the air conditioner has a round ventilation fan, tighten the fan on the motor shaft by inserting screwdriver with a long blade through the door of the fan. The fan is installed in his house with bolts, and vibrations can loosen these screws. Then tighten them with a wrench. Step 4: If the fan has oil ports, apply several drops of 20-weight non-weight engine oil (not universal oil) to each port at the beginning of the cooling season. Step 5: If you suspect that the fan motor is defective, test it with VOM set to RX1 scale. Disconnect terminal wires from terminals and cut probes of VOM to wires. If the meter reads between about 3 and 30 ohm, the engine will function correctly. If the meter reads either zero or an extremely high number, replace the engine. To remove the fan motor, remove the fan, power cords and several mounting bolts. Install the new engine with the reverse procedure. However, if the capacitor coil needs to be moved to get the fan out, do not attempt to remove the motor. Call a professional serviceperson. By following the routine maintenance mentioned in this article, you will be able to handle most problems that occur with your window air conditioning unit. For more articles on home repair, check out the following links. How to repair Central Air Conditioners: If your system sends cold air to all parts of the house, you have central air. Keep the system running cool. Major Appliance Repair: If a/c is not the only thing in your house on fritz, you can learn how to fix other machines in this article. Small appliance repair: Once you've tackled a/c, a toaster or blender works like child's play. Find out how to fix these here. Thermostat maintenance: To make sure there's actually a problem with you being a/c, you can check the thermostat, too. Learn how to calibrate a thermostat. Ad

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