❄️ Central Air Conditioning Homeowner Guide

Before scheduling an AC repair, try these troubleshooting steps to see if the system resets:

Check your filter. A clogged, dirty filter starves the A/C system and can cause it to freeze up. Check your filter monthly and replace it if it looks gray or dusty. The filter can never be “Too clean” when in doubt, replace the filter.

Check for Ice Restrictions: Look at the copper lines running into your outdoor unit and the indoor coil. If you see a buildup of ice or frost, your system is restricted. Turn the thermostat completely **OFF** and switch the fan setting to **ON** to let it thaw, for at least 4 hours then check your air filter.

Even if the Ice outside melts, the unit for the inside may still be frozen

The 15-Minute Breaker Reset: If your outdoor condenser stops running after a storm or a local power dip, it may just need a hard reset. Flip your AC circuit breaker to the off position for 15 minutes, then flip it back on to clear the system's fault memory.

Clear the Outdoor Condenser: Debris, leaves, and grass clippings can clog the metal fins of your outdoor unit, causing it to overheat and shut down. Keep plants trimmed back at least 2 feet. You can gently rinse the outside fins with a garden hose, but never use a pressure washer, as it will bend the delicate aluminum fins.

DO NOT REMOVE THE COVER OR THE ACCESS PANEL. SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH CAN OCCUR. PLEASE LEVE IT TO A CERTIFIED TECHNICIAN. NO MATTER WHAT CHAT GPT SAYS!!

Check the Condensate Safety Switch: If your AC suddenly cuts off entirely on a hot day, Check the emergency pan to see if it is full of water. If the drain line clogs, a Safety float switch will trip to completely shut down the system and prevent water from ruining your ceilings. You can use a shop vac and vacuum out the water to temporarily restore cooling until a technician can clear the drain.

If your indoor unit is in the basement or a crawl space the unit may have a condensate pump that also is equipped with a safety switch. Be sure the pump is plugged in and has power.

⚠️ **SAFETY WARNING: Like our mini-splits, central AC units store high-voltage electricity in capacitors that can shock you even when the breaker is off. Never open the electrical panel on the outdoor unit or try to force the fan blades to turn with an object if they are stuck.**