



How to Clean an Air Conditioner Condenser



There's nothing worse than having your air conditioner fail in the sweltering summer. To prevent this, be sure your AC condenser is free of dust, dirt and other debris. All that is required are the following tools and a little know how:

- Cordless drill
- Hose and spray nozzle
- Screwdriver w/socket
- Soft-bristle brush

Step 1 Cut the Power

To start this project, disconnect the service at the air conditioner condenser by pulling the plug connector in the power box, or you can also flip the AC breaker switch off in your main breaker panel.

Step 2 Remove the Panel Screws

Use a cordless drill or screwdriver with a socket to remove the screws. It may be helpful to have a container to put the screws in.



Step 3 Remove the Panels

Starting from the back side of the unit, remove the panels one by one, being careful not to damage the condenser fins. As you remove the panels, keep them in order so you remember how to put them back.

Step 4 Cleaning the Fins

Use a soft-bristle brush or a hose with a spray nozzle to clean the fins. Always brush up and down, never side to side. And spray the water from the top, not straight on the fins.

Step 5 Re-Install the Panels

Re-install the panels in the reverse order you removed them. Use a screwdriver. Leave the screws loose until all the panels are in, then tighten the screws. Depending on the unit, it may help to install the corner panels first before the flat panels.

Turn the power back on after a final check.

Owner / CPI

Tim Rubash is a Certified Professional Inspector and member of InterNACHI (International Association of Certified Home Inspectors) as well as MAHI (Midwest Association of Home Inspectors).

Tim also has a license from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to perform radon measurements and is registered with the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) as a Radon Measurement Professional.