



TO REPAIR OR REPLACE? THAT IS THE QUESTION.

Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems require proper and regular maintenance in order to work efficiently, but even in the best case scenarios most components of such systems only last 15 to 25 years. Furnaces on average last 15-20 years, heat pumps last 16 years, and air conditioning lasts 10-15 years. Tankless water heaters last more than 20 years, while an electric or gas water heater has a life expectancy of about 10 years. Thermostats usually are replaced before the end of their 35-year life expansion due to technological improvements.

The best advice I have read said to take the age of the equipment and multiply that by the repair cost. If the number is more than 5,000, then the homeowner should consider replacement. Below is the “Study of Life Expectancy of Home Components” done by the National Association of Home Builders.

Here is a list of components and their life expectancies:

Component	Years
Air Conditioners	10-15
Air Quality Systems	15
Boilers	13-21
Dehumidifiers	8
Ducting	10
Furnaces	15-20
Heat Pumps	16
Heat Recovery Ventilators	20+
Thermostats	35
Ventilators	7
Water Heaters, Tankless	20+
Electric Radiant heater	40
Hot Water or Steam Radiant Heater	15+
Diffusers, Gilles, and Registers	25
Induction and Fan-Coil Units	10-15
Dampers	20+
DX, Water, or Steam	20
Electric	15
Shell-and-Tube	20
Oil Burners	<10*

*Oil Burners need more maintenance and don't last as long as Gas Burners