

OTTAWA HVAC PRO

Costs & Pricing

What HVAC work costs in Ottawa and what drives
the price

4 Expert Answers from Construction Brain

ottawahvacpro.ca/construction-brain

Table of Contents

1.	What is the cost of a furnace tune up?	
2.	How much does it cost to fix a refrigerant leak?	
3.	What is the cost to install a smart thermostat?	
4.	How much does it cost to add AC to a house?	

Q1

What is the cost of a furnace tune up?

A **furnace tune-up in Ottawa typically costs between \$150 - \$200** for a standard annual maintenance service. This is one of the most cost-effective investments you can make in your home's heating system.

During a professional furnace tune-up, a licensed HVAC technician will perform a comprehensive inspection and cleaning of your system. This includes checking the heat exchanger for cracks, testing gas pressure and combustion efficiency, cleaning or replacing the air filter, lubricating moving parts, and testing all safety controls including the carbon monoxide sensors. The technician will also inspect the venting system and check for any gas leaks.

In Ottawa's climate, annual furnace maintenance is especially important given our harsh winters and the heavy workload placed on heating systems. A well-maintained furnace runs more efficiently, reducing your energy bills by 10-15% and extending the equipment's lifespan. More importantly, regular maintenance helps prevent dangerous carbon monoxide leaks and ensures your family's safety throughout the heating season.

The best time to schedule your furnace tune-up is in early fall, before you need to rely on your heating system. Many Ottawa HVAC companies offer maintenance plans that can reduce the cost of annual service and provide priority scheduling for repairs. Some homeowners insurance policies also require annual maintenance to maintain coverage on HVAC equipment.

If your furnace is showing signs of trouble like unusual noises, uneven heating, or higher energy bills, don't wait for the annual service - call for an inspection right away. For reliable furnace maintenance in Ottawa, request a quote from Ottawa HVAC Pro to keep your system running safely and efficiently.

Q2

How much does it cost to fix a refrigerant leak?

Refrigerant leak repairs in Ottawa typically cost between \$300-\$800, depending on the location and severity of the leak. Simple seal replacements might be on the lower end, while leaks in hard-to-reach coils or multiple leak points will be more expensive.

The total cost includes **leak detection** (usually \$150-\$250), **repair work** (\$200-\$500), and **refrigerant replacement** (\$200-\$400). Many HVAC companies will apply the diagnostic fee toward the repair cost if you proceed with the work. The type of refrigerant also affects cost - older R-22 refrigerant is significantly more

expensive than newer R-410A.

Location matters significantly for repair costs. Leaks in easily accessible areas like service valves or connections are quick fixes. However, leaks in evaporator coils (inside your home) or condenser coils (outside unit) require more labor and may involve removing panels or other components. In some cases with older systems, extensive coil leaks might make replacement more economical than repair.

Don't ignore refrigerant leaks - they'll only get worse and cause your system to work harder, increasing energy bills and potentially damaging the compressor. Signs include ice buildup on coils, reduced cooling, hissing sounds, or sweet chemical odors near the unit. Licensed technicians use electronic leak detectors and UV dyes to pinpoint exact leak locations.

If your air conditioning system is over 10-12 years old with a major refrigerant leak, get a quote for replacement as well. Sometimes the repair costs approach half the price of a new, more efficient system. For a free estimate on your refrigerant leak repair, request a quote from Ottawa HVAC Pro.

Q3

What is the cost to install a smart thermostat?

Smart thermostat installation in Ottawa typically costs \$150-\$350 for professional installation, depending on the complexity of your existing wiring and the specific thermostat model you choose.

The installation cost breaks down into the thermostat itself (\$100-\$300+ depending on features) and professional installation (\$150-\$250). Basic programmable smart thermostats like the Honeywell T6 or Ecobee3 Lite are on the lower end, while premium models like the Nest Learning Thermostat or Ecobee SmartThermostat with voice control cost more. **Professional installation is recommended** because it ensures proper wiring, calibration, and integration with your HVAC system.

Most Ottawa homes built after 1990 have compatible wiring for smart thermostats, but older homes may need a "C-wire" (common wire) installed for power, which can add \$100-\$200 to the installation cost. Some smart thermostats come with power extender kits that can work around missing C-wires, but professional assessment is important to avoid damaging your HVAC system.

Installation typically takes 1-2 hours and includes removing your old thermostat, connecting the new wiring, mounting the smart thermostat, and programming it to work with your heating and cooling system. The technician will also walk you through the app setup and basic programming features.

Safety is important - incorrect thermostat wiring can damage your furnace or air conditioning system, potentially costing hundreds in repairs. While some homeowners attempt DIY installation, professional installation ensures warranty coverage and proper system integration.

For a free estimate on smart thermostat installation and to discuss which model works best with your HVAC system, request a quote from Ottawa HVAC Pro.

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How much does it cost to add AC to a house?

Adding central air conditioning to an existing home in Ottawa typically costs between \$4,000 to \$6,000, depending on your home's size, existing ductwork, and the AC system you choose.

The total cost depends heavily on your current setup. If you already have a forced-air furnace with good ductwork throughout the house, you're looking at the lower end of that range since the installer can connect the new AC unit to your existing ducts. However, if your home has baseboard heating, radiators, or inadequate ductwork, you'll need new ducts installed, which can push costs toward \$8,000 or higher.

System size and efficiency also impact pricing significantly. A basic 2-ton AC unit suitable for a smaller Ottawa home (1,200-1,500 sq ft) will cost less than a 4-ton high-efficiency system needed for larger homes. Higher SEER-rated units cost more upfront but provide better energy savings during Ottawa's hot summers.

In Ottawa's climate, most homeowners choose systems rated for our temperature extremes. You'll also need an electrical permit for the new AC installation, and the work should be done by licensed technicians to ensure proper refrigerant handling and electrical connections.

Installation timing matters for cost - spring installations (April-May) often have better pricing than peak summer when demand is highest. Many Ottawa HVAC companies also offer financing options to spread the investment over time.

For an accurate estimate based on your specific home and needs, it's best to have a licensed HVAC contractor assess your existing systems and provide a detailed quote. Want to discuss your specific situation? We offer free consultations to help determine the best AC solution for your Ottawa home.

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