

Home cooling and thermostat troubleshooting

FIX-011 / REV A / 2026.09.01

The recovered conversation separates house heat gain from an HVAC performance problem. The useful pattern is an indoor temperature rise during the hottest afternoon hours while the AC runs continuously, with an unused attic fan and questionable airflow as the first things to investigate. The record keeps the checks ordered so a filter, condenser, window-heat, attic, or airflow issue is not confused with a refrigerant or equipment diagnosis.

STATUS	Needs Retest
CLASSIFICATION	FIX
MATERIAL	TROUBLESHOOTING
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / NEEDS RETEST
CATEGORY	Repairs / Technology
RECORD TYPE	troubleshooting

TECHNICAL NOTES

Public-safe cooling troubleshooting path for an afternoon temperature rise and an AC that runs for hours without catching up.

GOAL

Separate heat gain and airflow problems from an equipment fault using safe observations and one temperature-split check.

EQUIPMENT

- Return-air and supply-air thermometer
- Replacement filter matched to the system
- Notebook or phone photo record
- Qualified HVAC service when the safe checks point to equipment

METHOD / STEPS

1. Seal and insulate the unused attic/whole-house fan before chasing smaller comfort changes.
2. Check the filter and replace it if dirty or overly restrictive; do not run the system without a filter.
3. Confirm the outdoor condenser fan is running and the coil is clear of grass, fuzz, and debris.
4. Close west- and south-facing blinds before the afternoon heat arrives and use ceiling fans only in occupied rooms.
5. Pre-cool modestly before the heat peak instead of setting the thermostat sharply lower after the house is already hot.
6. Measure return-air and nearby supply-air temperature after the system has run 15-20 minutes.
7. Record the result and use qualified service for refrigerant, electrical, coil, duct, or other safety-critical work.

RESULT / WHERE THIS STANDS

Recovered conversation-based troubleshooting path; it narrows the next check without claiming a confirmed HVAC diagnosis.

TROUBLESHOOTING

- A 15-20°F supply-to-return difference can be a useful clue, but it is not a complete diagnosis.
- If the temperature split is reasonable while the house still gains heat, investigate insulation, air leakage, windows, and the attic opening.
- If the split is unusually small, stop guessing and have the system inspected for airflow, coil, duct, or refrigerant problems.
- Do not place a box fan directly against a supply register until its effect on system airflow is understood.

SAFETY / LIMITATIONS

- Do not cover an attic or whole-house fan until it cannot be accidentally switched on.
- Do not open refrigerant circuits or work inside energized HVAC equipment without qualified service.
- Treat the temperature check as an observation, not proof that a component is safe to replace or bypass.

SPECIFICATION

OBSERVED PATTERN	AC runs 4+ hours / indoor temperature rises during the afternoon
FIRST PRIORITY	Seal and insulate the unused attic fan opening
SCREENING CHECK	Return air vs. supply air after 15-20 minutes
BOUNDARY	Not a confirmed HVAC diagnosis

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

2026.09.06 / ARCHIVE-01

Recovered and summarized from the supplied Attic Fan Heat Barrier conversation; raw transcript remains unpublished.

RELEASED MATERIAL / SOURCE LINKS

fix-011-public-summary.txt

PUBLIC SUMMARY / RECOVERED CONVERSATION

<https://u225x.com/downloads/manifest-records/fix-011-public-summary.txt>

CONNECTED RECORDS

FIX-012

<https://u225x.com/record/FIX-012>

RETURN TO THE LIVING RECORD

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This PDF preserves the public notes at this revision. Visit the record for updates and attached images.

<https://u225x.com/record/FIX-011>