

Flow Masters Plumbing Outlines Seasonal Timeline for Scheduling HVAC Services Ahead of Winter

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA - October 29, 2026 -
Flow Masters Plumbing is outlining a seasonal timeline for scheduling professional heating and cooling service ahead of winter. The outline builds on the company?s guidance on heat pump run times and compares published service intervals for heat pumps and furnaces.

The timing follows the 2026-2027 U.S. Winter Outlook from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, released October 15. The outlook favors above-average temperatures across northern California, including the Bay Area, from December through February.

Seasonal outlooks describe probabilities over several months rather than conditions on any single day, and heating equipment still operates on cooler days and evenings even in a mild season. Recommendations on how often to schedule HVAC services vary because federal energy guidance and an independent consumer organization frame service frequency differently. The company?s timeline organizes both sets of guidance by system type and by season.

The U.S. Department of Energy?s Energy Saver guidance on operating and maintaining heat pumps advises homeowners to have a professional technician service a heat pump at least once a year. The department states that energy consumption can differ by 10% to 25% between a well-maintained heat pump and a severely neglected one.

According to the department, a technician can inspect ducts, filters, the blower, and the indoor coil; identify and seal duct leaks; verify airflow and refrigerant charge through measurement; and check for refrigerant leaks.

Between professional visits, the department recommends cleaning or changing filters every three months or as the manufacturer or installer recommends, and cleaning outdoor coils whenever they appear dirty. It also cautions against thermostat setbacks that trigger backup heating, which is usually less efficient.

Consumers? Checkbook, an independent nonprofit publication, reports in its guidance on maintaining HVAC equipment, last updated in November 2025, that equipment manufacturers generally recommend annual professional checks, while contractors often favor annual or semiannual visits.

The organization adds that blanket recommendations can seem arbitrary because little hard data shows that energy savings or longer equipment life offset the cost of frequent visits.

Consumers? Checkbook says more frequent service is justified when a system is old, heavily used, surrounded by dust and pollen, or has broken down several times, and that newer units can be inspected far less often. It advises homeowners to ask technicians to explain any recommended interval.

The same publication notes that gas and electric furnaces usually need less professional maintenance than other equipment. During a visit every few years, a technician can still clean and adjust a furnace for efficiency and look for existing or potential leaks of fuel or combustion products.

When professional service is due, homeowners can schedule heating checks in the fall and cooling checks in the spring, following ENERGY STAR?s seasonal guidance. For heat pumps of any age, the timeline follows the Department of Energy?s recommendation.

Flow Masters Plumbing describes its heating maintenance as covering furnaces, boilers, and heat pumps, with technicians inspecting, cleaning, and tuning equipment and testing controls and airflow to assess equipment performance during the cold season. Cooling maintenance covers inspection and cleaning of major air conditioning components.

Cooling visits also include checking refrigerant levels and testing thermostats. Consumers? Checkbook notes that a heavily clogged filter can cause evaporator coils to freeze in heat pumps and air conditioners and may lead to compressor failure.

The company states that a full maintenance visit follows manufacturer specifications and industry practices from the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association. Technicians perform the refrigerant checks, burner cleaning, and other maintenance tasks described below only where applicable to the equipment being serviced. The visit begins with a system evaluation and safety inspection that includes verifying connections, inspecting heat exchangers, and checking refrigerant pressures.

The next step is an airflow and duct performance check that measures static pressure and looks for leaks and blockages. Technicians then lubricate moving parts and clean burners and coils. They also clean blower assemblies and condensate drains.

Technicians calibrate thermostats and electrically test capacitors and relays. They also test contactors and wiring connections before comparing heating and cooling output with manufacturer specifications during a startup test.

Flow Masters Plumbing was founded in 2011 by Alan Moran and Fergal McMahon. The company operates offices in Daly City and San Francisco, and it serves homeowners throughout the Bay Area.

The company offers plumbing, boiler, radiant heating, and heating and cooling services. It is a licensed California contractor, has been accredited by the Better Business Bureau since February 2025 with an A+ rating on its BBB profile, and lists membership in the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association.
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Flow Masters Plumbing

Our team provides drain cleaning, sewer line repair, tankless water heater installation, hydro jetting, backflow testing, emergency plumbing, trenchless sewer repairs, water leak detection, boiler installation and repair etc.

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