Albuquerque HVAC Company Urges Pre-Winter Checks as Wetter El Niño Season Threatens Older Systems

Tru Mechanical Heating & Cooling explains why a wet, mixed winter stresses Albuquerque furnaces, swamp coolers, and mini-splits in ways dry cold never does, and what West Side homeowners should have checked before the pattern arrives.

Albuquerque, New Mexico Sep 27, 2026 (Issuewire.com) - Albuquerque's heating systems are built for one kind of winter, and forecasters say a different kind is coming. Tru Mechanical Heating & Cooling, a family-owned HVAC company serving the Albuquerque metro, is urging homeowners, particularly on the city's West Side where older furnaces and swamp coolers remain common, to have their systems checked now, before a wetter El Niño pattern sets in.

The National Weather Service has issued a strong El Niño advisory for New Mexico, predicting above-normal precipitation this winter with better chances for rain and snow in Albuquerque. NOAA's Climate Prediction Center outlook for December through February leans wetter than normal for the state with no strong lean on temperature. In practical terms, that means more storms rather than deeper cold, and a higher chance that what falls is a mix of rain, snow, and ice rather than the dry cold Albuquerque usually gets.

That distinction matters for equipment. Albuquerque's winters are typically so dry that moisture is rarely the thing that takes a system down. A wet winter changes what fails and why.

"Our systems here are used to dry cold. They are not used to wet cold, and those are two very different problems," said David Trujillo, co-owner of Tru Mechanical Heating & Cooling. "A furnace that has run fine for 20 years in bone-dry air can start throwing errors the first week of a damp cold snap. Nothing broke. The conditions changed. We would rather find the weak spots in October than get the call at 6 a.m. in December."

The company points to four areas where a wet winter creates problems Albuquerque homeowners rarely see.

The first is the swamp cooler. A large share of Albuquerque homes, especially older houses on the West Side, still run evaporative cooling, and many are never properly shut down for winter. A cooler that is not drained, disconnected, and covered will freeze what water remains in its lines and pump, and in a wet winter it lets moisture straight into the ductwork. An unsealed cooler damper also allows cold, damp outside air into the duct system, forcing the furnace to work harder to heat air that should never have entered the house.

The second is condensate. Newer high-efficiency furnaces produce water as they run and drain it through a line and trap. When that line runs through a cold garage, crawlspace, or exterior wall, freezing conditions can block it and shut the furnace down as a safety measure. Freezing rain and ice, which the wet pattern makes more likely, can also ice over the intake and exhaust pipes on these furnaces, producing the same lockout.

The third is the ductwork itself. Older metal ducts running through attics and crawlspaces can sweat in humid conditions, and leaky joints that only wasted heat in dry years begin pulling in moisture in wet ones. Rust, sagging insulation, and musty odors at the vents are the usual signs. Tru Mechanical operates a full in-house sheet metal shop with plasma cutting and custom ductwork fabrication, which allows damaged sections to be rebuilt to fit rather than patched.

The fourth is the ductless mini-split. These systems are heat pumps, and in wet air near freezing the outdoor unit frosts over far faster than it does in dry cold. The system responds by running defrost cycles, during which it temporarily stops heating and may vent steam or hiss. Homeowners unfamiliar with the behavior often report it as a failure. Frequent defrost is normal in wet cold, but a unit that cannot recover, or that ices up its base pan, needs service.

Tru Mechanical recommends a pre-winter check that covers swamp cooler winterization and damper sealing, condensate line routing and trap condition, duct inspection in unconditioned spaces, furnace heat exchanger and ignition components, and mini-split outdoor unit clearance and drainage. Albuquerque's median first measurable snow falls in early December, but roughly one year in ten it arrives by November 10, which leaves a narrower window than many homeowners assume.

Tru Mechanical Heating & Cooling has been family-owned and operated in Albuquerque since 2012, with more than 30 years of combined experience between David and Ray Trujillo. The company holds New Mexico Mechanical License #376701 and provides furnace installation and replacement, furnace repair, swamp cooler to refrigerated air conversions, and ductless mini-split service. As a PNM Rebate Partner, the company can also help customers qualify for utility rebates on high-efficiency equipment; homeowners should confirm current program terms directly with PNM at the time of purchase.

Albuquerque-area homeowners who want a pre-winter system check can contact Tru Mechanical Heating & Cooling at (505) 328-0743 or visit trumechanicalllc.com.

About Tru Mechanical Heating & Cooling
Tru Mechanical Heating & Cooling is a family-owned and operated HVAC company serving Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Los Lunas, Santa Fe, and surrounding New Mexico communities since 2012. The company provides furnace installation and repair, swamp cooler to refrigerated air conversions, and ductless mini-split services, and operates a full in-house sheet metal shop for custom ductwork fabrication.

Contact:
Tru Mechanical Heating & Cooling
Albuquerque, NM
(505) 328-0743
https://trumechanicalllc.com

Media Contact

Tru Mechanical Heating & Cooling

*********@gmail.com

(505) 328-0743

7612 Desert Morning Rd SW, Albuquerque, NM 87121

https://trumechanicalllc.com/

Source : Tru Mechanical Heating & Cooling

See on IssueWire