

# BASEBOARD HEAT?

## Don't ignore your baseboards!

Do you heat your home with hot water baseboard? Yes?

You don't have an air filter to change regularly, but there are still somethings that need to be cleaned for proper operation.

Are the fins clean? Fins are the aluminum metal squares in the baseboard - they sort of look like rows of metal saltine crackers - need to be clean of pet hair, dust and debris. Use a vacuum or a dry, soft paint brush to sweep them out.

They can bend easily, so do this gently.

Next, make sure there is nothing underneath the baseboards. Air needs to be able to flow underneath it to keep the house heated. Blocking it will provide you less heat in the winter. Look for carpets or other items in the way. Has your house been remodeled and new flooring put on top of old? There should be an inch of air space under the baseboard, and it too should be dust and pet hair free.

Is there something in front of the baseboards? If so, arrange your room so no couches or dressers are in front of them.

Also, look for any signs of water leakage. If you see any, call a professional, like a technician from Gary & Sons Inc., to inspect it right away. Repairs can be made.

Do you have black marks showing above the baseboard? This is called ghosting or shadowing. It isn't a sign that the wall will catch on fire - after all, it is water in the pipes. But there is an issue. Black marks are caused by poor indoor air quality, dust or other organic compounds in the air. After the particles in the air are heated, the residue clings to the cool wall above the baseboard. Usually, this looks like a faint shadow on the wall. One of the most common sources are candles and the small amount of soot that they produce. This residue can be cleaned or painted over.

As for the baseboards themselves, cleaning and painting them is possible but limited. The top piece across the top can be cleaned and painted - but only in place. Removing it is difficult. The front cover can be removed for sanding and painting - or replacement. If you see any rust, it is usually caused by moisture in the room as the water in the baseboard is contained.

And if you ever have any issues with your baseboard heat, call Gary & Sons Inc., to help.



## PSA = Planned Service Agreement = Peace of Mind!

A Planned Service Agreement, or PSA, is a Gary & Sons Inc. membership program to keep your home comfortable year round. Pay one fee a year for the annual planned visit for us to inspect your heating and/or cooling systems. During each annual inspection, our competent and professional technicians will clean and evaluate your home's equipment to keep it lasting longer and prevent problems.

If you are not a member and would like more information, go to [garysync.com](http://garysync.com) or call 814-371-4885.

