

## Furnace Noise

**QUESTION:** The furnace is starting to make a noise (sounds like the blower motor). It sounds like a bearing, or bushing not sure without taking a look.

I've never taken the furnace out or had it apart. From one of your articles, it indicated that I should do some periodic maintenance on the furnace. What would that entail? Also, I guess I would have to remove the oven in order to get at the furnace.

Any tips that you might have that could possibly save me some time would be appreciated. Thanks again. I look forward to hearing from you.

**ANSWER:** Maintenance on a furnace consists of cleaning the gas jet, cleaning the burner with a wire brush, cleaning the combustion chamber, cleaning the spark electrode, cleaning the dirt and dust off the sail switch, checking all of the electrical connections (particularly the grounds) and cleaning the other internal parts.

I have heard a noise in several furnace units that sounded like a bad fan bearing but turned out to be the gas jet nozzle. It was partially blocked and the gas was somewhat restricted causing the whistling noise. The solution was to clean the nozzle by soaking it in vinegar overnight. If you do not have the time take a round wooden toothpick, wet it and twirl it in the nozzle opening.

Since the burner goes on first followed by the fan, if the noise starts immediately it is the gas nozzle. Also, the fan will run for some time after the burner has shut off so if the noise is still there with just the fan running it is the motor bearing. This will allow you to have the right parts available when you take the furnace out.

You almost always have to take the furnace out to do repairs or maintenance. Some RVs have removable panels that allow easy access, some can be removed from the outside and most will require a major effort. I usually find that troubleshooting the unit and fixing it takes almost no time compared to removing and re-installing it. Each trailer or motorhome furnace installation is different and I have never seen any guide.

**FOLLOW-UP:** It was the motor bearing. Thanks for your help.