



## Emergency AC Repair Service

*The east-corridor ductless specialist.*

FIELD GUIDE · BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

# Emergency AC Failure Checklist (Print + Keep)

*A one-page action plan for when your AC dies in the middle of a Birmingham summer night. Print it. Stick it on the fridge. Use it.*

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**Who this is for:** Any homeowner in Leeds, Moody, Pinson, Clay, or Springville who would rather be ready than panicking.

**What's inside:** Five DIY checks (free), the info to have ready for the dispatch call, how to cool the house if a tech can't make it for hours, and the four signs you need emergency service vs morning service.

**Service area:** Birmingham east corridor — Leeds, Moody, Pinson, Clay, Springville



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## First — Don't Panic. Then — Use This.

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AC failures at night feel worse than they are. Most can be triaged in 10 minutes. Half of "AC is dead" calls are something the homeowner could have fixed themselves. Run through this list before calling. If nothing works, the call you make will be shorter and the tech will arrive ready.

## Step 1 — Check the Thermostat

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It sounds dumb. It works about 20% of the time.

- Battery dead? Many programmable thermostats run on AA batteries. Swap them
- Mode set to "Cool" and fan to "Auto"?
- Set point at least 3 degrees below current room temp?
- If the screen is blank → it's the battery or a tripped low-voltage transformer. Try fresh batteries first

## Step 2 — Check the Breakers

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Walk to the main electrical panel. Find the breaker labeled "AC," "Condenser," "HVAC," or "Furnace/Air Handler."

- A tripped breaker sits between ON and OFF — slightly off-center
- Flip it firmly all the way OFF, then firmly all the way ON
- If it trips again within 1 minute — STOP. Do not reset. This is an electrical problem and needs a tech immediately
- If it stays on and the unit starts → you're back in business. Note the date; a one-time trip happens after storms. Repeat trips need a service call

## Step 3 — Check the Outdoor Disconnect

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There's a small gray or weatherproof box mounted on the wall right next to your outdoor unit. Open it.

- Inside is a pull-out fuse block or a flip switch
- It should be IN / DOWN / ON
- If it's out, slide it back in firmly (correct orientation matters — there's usually a clear ON side)
- Some have visible blown fuses (window in the cartridge). Replace if needed — same amperage rating

## Step 4 — Check the Filter

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A filter so clogged it's collapsed can cause the indoor coil to freeze solid, which shuts off airflow even when the system thinks it's running.

- Pull the filter. If it's gray and matted, replace it
- If you see ICE on the copper lines going to the indoor air handler — your coil is frozen. Turn the system to OFF, fan to ON. Let it thaw for 2-4 hours before retrying
- Don't turn it back to COOL until ice is fully melted or you'll wreck the compressor

## Step 5 — Check the Condensate Drain

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Modern air handlers have a safety switch that shuts off the system when the drain pan fills with water. If your AC is dead with no obvious cause and you find water in the secondary drain pan or under the unit — your drain line is clogged.

- Find the access cap on the PVC drain line (usually near the air handler)
- Pour 1 cup of bleach + 1 cup of water down it
- Wait 30 minutes
- Try the AC again
- If still dead, the float switch may be stuck — needs a tech

## When to Call — and What to Tell Them

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If steps 1-5 didn't work, call. Have this ready:

- Indoor temperature now
- Outdoor temperature now
- Year/make of the AC unit (data plate on outdoor unit)
- What you tried from the steps above
- Any noises, smells, or visual issues (frost on lines, water under unit, burning smell)
- Whether anyone in the home has a medical need (asthma, infant, elderly, etc.) — this changes priority routing

## Keep the House Livable Until a Tech Arrives

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It might be 4-12 hours. Survive it intelligently:

- Close every blind and curtain — sun load on south/west walls can add 10°F
- Turn off the oven, stovetop, dishwasher, and dryer. They add real heat
- Run every ceiling fan and every floor fan you own
- Put a wet washcloth in the freezer. Replace as it warms — neck and wrists
- If it's under 75°F outside (rare in summer), open windows on the shaded side
- For sleep: bottom floor, hard floor, fan blowing across body. Body heat sinks down to bare floor much faster than to bedding

## Emergency vs Morning Service — How to Decide

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Not every failure is a 2 a.m. service call. Use this:

- TRUE emergency — call now: indoor temp >90°F, infant/elderly/medical need, burning smell, water actively damaging ceiling, electrical smell or sparking
- Wait until 7 a.m. — call early: indoor temp 78-86°F, fully healthy adults, no damage, weather is below 95°F overnight
- Call same day, not after-hours: indoor temp under 78°F, no damage, all adults

# About Emergency AC Repair Service

**Emergency AC Repair Service** — The east-corridor ductless specialist.

Birmingham east corridor — Leeds, Moody, Pinson, Clay, Springville

This guide was written by working HVAC techs, not marketing teams. Direct, honest, practical. Real Alabama numbers, real local context, no guarantees we can't back up.

If something in here saved you a service call — or saved you from a bad one — share it with a neighbor. That's the whole point.

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## **Emergency AC Repair Service**

Phone: (205) 206-5252

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*Licensed Alabama HVAC contractor. Written estimates. No surprise bills.*