

How to Thaw the AC Evaporator Coil

When an air conditioner system is low on refrigerant, it will often have ice on the suction line to the compressor. To check for this, go outside to the compressor/condensing unit. One of the copper lines (the insulated one) will have ice on it near the condensing unit.



If ice is present here, then it is also possible to have ice on the evaporator coil in the attic. When ice coats the evaporator coil in the attic, air cannot flow past the cold coils—very little air flow will be observed flowing out of the AC registers throughout the house. Follow this procedure to thaw the evaporator coil (this is a short term solution until the system refrigerant can be replenished).

1. At the thermostat,
 - a. Turn the fan to the “On” position.
 - b. Turn the AC system to the “Off” position.
2. Wait at least one hour for the warm air to thaw any ice on the evaporator.
3. At the thermostat,
 - a. Turn the fan to the “Auto” position.
 - b. Turn the AC system to the “Cool” position.
4. Check the AC registers in the house to see if the air flow has improved and if the air temperature is cooler.

Repeat this procedure if the evaporator coil freezes again.