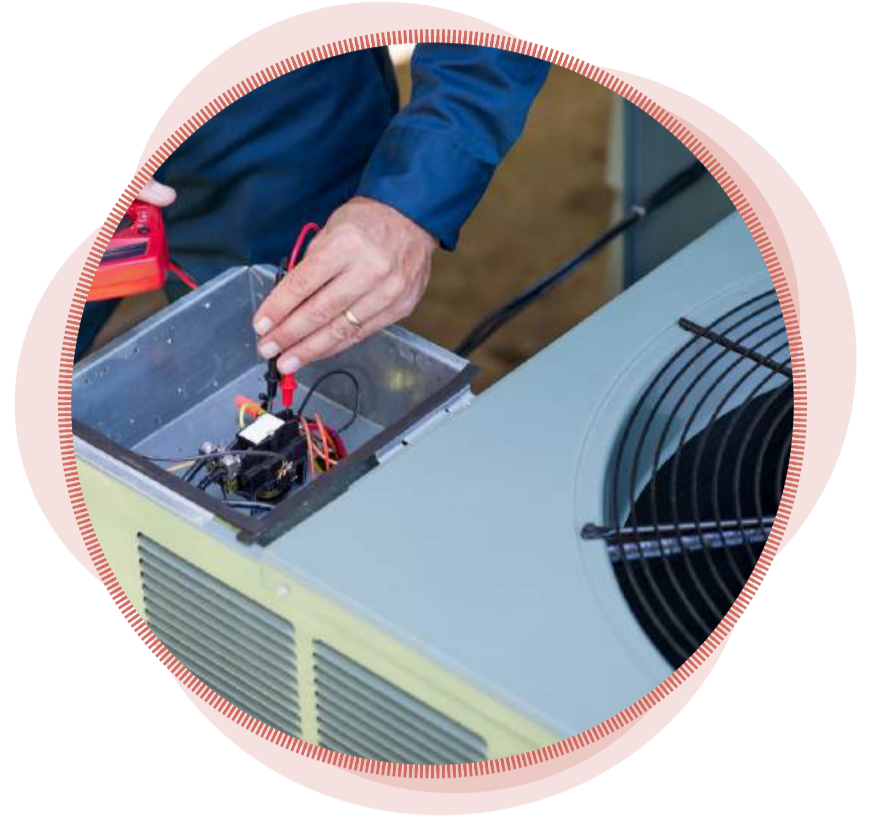


Hidden Costs of DIY Projects

1. Tools You'll Only Use Once

When hanging a new light fixture calls for a voltage tester, wire stripper, and a ladder tall enough to reach your ceiling, what seemed like a quick and cheap DIY upgrade now requires a significant upfront investment. If you find yourself buying equipment you probably won't use again; it might be time to reconsider your plan of action.



2. Lack of Expertise

Even small DIY projects have a learning curve. You may not cause much damage by attempting to fill a drywall hole. Still, you could spend hours applying spackle, sanding it down, refilling the low spots, sanding again, priming, and painting, only to discover that one area is too high and another is too low. The more mistakes you make, the more the project takes up your time and money (and sanity).



3. Injuries and Accidents

Aristotle once said, "The more you know, the more you realize you don't know." Nothing could be more true when it comes to DIY projects. Without proper training in how to use power tools, apply dangerous chemicals, or perform electrical work, you could be exposing yourself to risks you didn't even know were there.



4. Materials (and More Materials)

It's easy to assume that the cost of a DIY project is the cost of materials. Sometimes, it's what you don't know; sometimes, it's what you don't already have, but the cost of materials for DIY projects almost always exceeds your initial estimate. Plan for projects to take more time and money than you think they will.



5. Costly Mistakes

While some DIY projects are straightforward, others require specialized knowledge in several different areas to get the job done right. Attempting these projects without proper training can lead to expensive mistakes or safety hazards. Rather than complicating things by trying the DIY method, know your limits and leave the unknowns to the experts.

