



Why to avoid closing off Air Vents and Registers

When an air vent is in the way, or looks like a bookshelf beware! When you are uncomfortable because of too much air it may seem logical to close off air vents and registers. Moving furniture may make the room function better, but it could lead to heating and ventilation motor problems, mold growth, decreased airflow, duct leakage, refrigerant leaks, heat exchanger cracks, and a blown or frozen compressor.

WARNING Keep Clear WARNING Do not block or cover
Your fresh air depends on keeping this area clear to avoid air system failure

Consequences of Closing Off Air Vents and Registers

When air vents are blocked, your HVAC system continues to pump out the same amount of conditioned air designed for the unblocked vents. Each HVAC system provides air in accordance with indoor air quality calculations. Closing vents and registers results in both insufficient airflow and increased pressure. This results in negative outcomes, including:

- Increased growth of mold and mildew.
- Rooms in the other parts of the building may get too much or too little fresh and conditioned air.
- Components can break and the system can fail.

Rooms are uncomfortable when vents are unintentionally blocked with bookcases, posters, rugs and other furniture. Look around your room for blocked vents and registers. Check behind bookcases, desks, drapes, rugs, and other objects that may be obstructing airflow from your supply or return grills.

If a room is uncomfortable, instead of blocking the air registers, please let your Custodial Engineer know about the issue so that an HVAC expert can find and fix the



Questions? Contact a Resource Conservation Specialist at SPSGoingGreener@seattleschools.org