



**After Hours HVACR**

*The one who answers when nobody else will.*

FIELD GUIDE · BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

# After-Hours HVAC Pricing Guide (Birmingham 2026)

*What it really costs to get HVAC service at 11 p.m. on a Saturday in Birmingham. No salesmanship, no guarantees, just the numbers.*

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**Who this is for:** Anyone who's been quoted an after-hours rate and isn't sure if it was reasonable.

**What's inside:** Birmingham 2026 ranges by repair type, what an itemized invoice should include, the 3 questions to ask any after-hours dispatcher, red flags on the final bill, and how to prevent 80% of after-hours calls in the first place.

**Service area:** Hoover, AL and the greater Birmingham metro — 24/7



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## Why After-Hours Is More Expensive

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It isn't arbitrary. Real costs go up:

- Tech overtime — 1.5x to 2x base hourly
- On-call premium — the tech gets paid to be available, not just on-site
- Vehicle and fuel time on routes that don't share cost across multiple calls
- Carrying a stocked truck full of parts for emergencies that may or may not come
- Insurance riders for after-hours work
- And the basic truth — competent techs willing to lose sleep are rare

# The Birmingham 2026 Market Ranges

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Observed, not promised. Your bill should land in here. If it's well above, push back.

- Diagnostic / trip fee: \$150-\$300
- Capacitor replacement: \$300-\$500
- Contactor replacement: \$300-\$550
- Float switch / drain clog clear: \$200-\$400
- Thermostat replacement (standard): \$250-\$500
- Refrigerant recharge R-410A: \$100-\$200/lb + diagnostic + leak repair if applicable
- Refrigerant recharge R-22 (older systems): \$150-\$300/lb
- Blower motor replacement (PSC): \$700-\$1,400
- Blower motor replacement (ECM/variable): \$1,200-\$2,200
- Fan motor (outdoor): \$600-\$1,200
- Compressor replacement: \$2,000-\$4,500 (rare overnight)
- Evaporator coil replacement: \$1,500-\$3,200
- Condensate pump: \$300-\$600

## What the Invoice Should Show

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A proper after-hours invoice itemizes:

- Date, time-in, time-out, tech name, certifications
- Diagnostic findings — what was wrong
- Parts used (with model numbers when applicable)
- Labor hours
- Trip / after-hours fee
- Total — clearly itemized
- Warranty terms on the work performed

## Three Questions Before You Authorize

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- "What's the diagnostic / trip fee, and does it apply toward the repair if I authorize work?"
- "What's the technician's hourly rate?"
- "Will I get a written estimate before any work over \$XXX?" (set your own threshold — \$200 is reasonable)

## Red Flags

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- A single "service" line on the invoice with no breakdown
- Refrigerant added with no weight specified
- Cash-only or check-only demand
- Pressure to authorize work without a number in writing
- No mention of warranty on parts or labor

## How to Prevent 80% of After-Hours Calls

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Almost every overnight failure is a daytime problem nobody acted on:

- Annual spring tune-up — capacitors and contactors checked. Both are the #1 and #2 overnight failure parts
- Filter changed every 30 days during summer
- Outdoor unit kept clear of debris, sprayed gently with a hose every 3 months
- Pay attention to a system that suddenly sounds different. Daytime service call is half the cost

## When After-Hours Is Worth Every Dollar

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These aren't optional:

- Indoor temp 90°F+ with infant, elderly, or anyone with respiratory illness
- Active water damage
- Electrical smell, sparking, or visible heat damage

# About After Hours HVACR

**After Hours HVACR** — The one who answers when nobody else will.

Hoover, AL and the greater Birmingham metro — 24/7

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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**After Hours HVACR**

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