

CHOOSING AN HVAC SYSTEM FOR YOUR HOME?

Here's some help!



Up to **half** of the energy used in a home goes to heating and cooling, so choosing the best heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system is imperative – for both your comfort and your energy bill.

If you're unsure which system is right for you, follow **these steps** for picking the best unit for your home



Know Your HVAC Options

Single stage

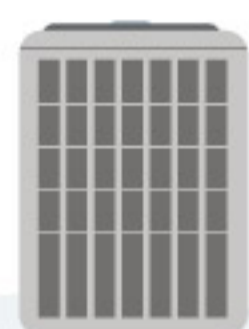


Operates at maximum speed only



Depending on SEER rating, may be less expensive than a multi-stage

Multi-stage



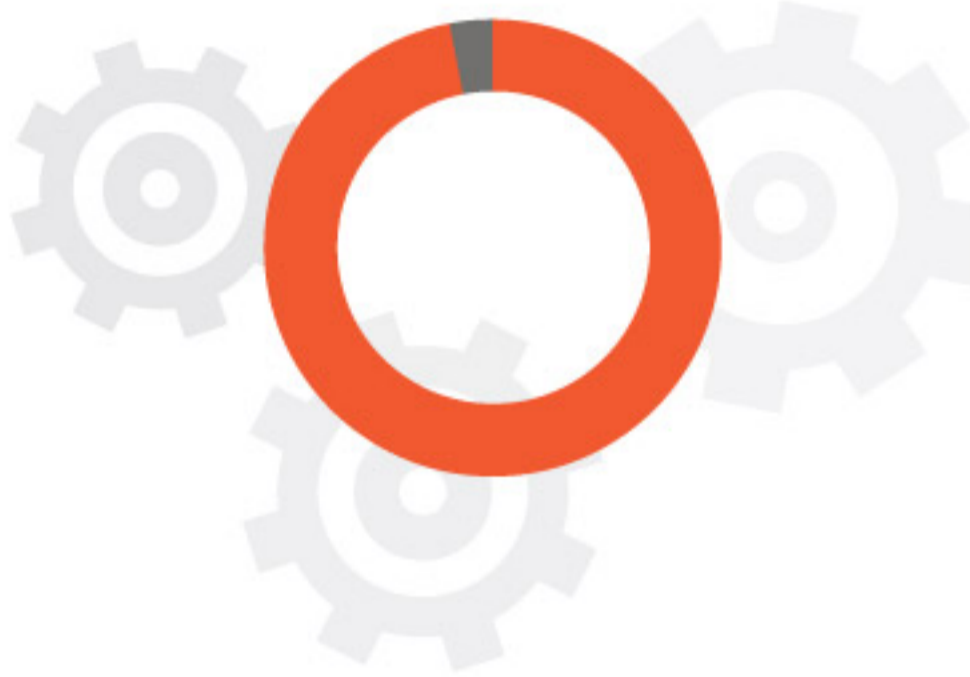
Works at 2 levels of operation; High and Low depending on need



Ideal for saving energy and money

Modern heating systems can achieve up to **97%** efficiency

Some popular options are:



Furnaces

Forced air heating system powered by propane, natural gas or electricity

Heat pumps

Forced air heating and cooling system, using the refrigeration process of indoor and outdoor air, uses electricity

Modern AC systems use **30-50%** less energy than those from the 1970s

Some popular options are:



Central air conditioning

Provides cool air throughout an entire house using a duct system

Ductless air conditioning

Mini split-systems are small in size and can be used to cool individual rooms or zones (multiple rooms)

Heat pumps

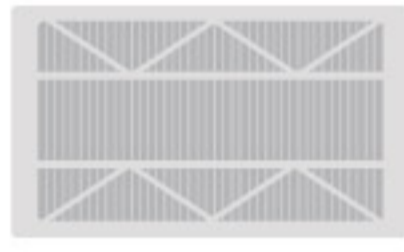
Energy efficient forced air cooling system using refrigeration process

Be Familiar with Newer HVAC Features



Whole house humidifiers

Allow for humidity control as you heat and cool your home



Air purification systems

Remove pollen, dust and other allergens from indoor air



UV lights

Kill indoor mold, bacteria, germs and odors

Compare Efficiency Ratings

Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) Rating

Measures the efficiency of furnaces and boilers
The national minimum is **78%**



A government-backed certification that protects the environment and saves you money through energy-efficient products and practices

Energy Star Certified

Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF)

Measures a heat pump's energy efficiency over one heating season

Energy Efficiency Rating (EER)

Measures a room AC's cooling capacity to its power input

Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER)

Measures the amount of energy needed to provide cooling output

Air Source Heat pumps with HSPFs between **8–14.5** are the most efficient, with higher numbers reflecting higher efficiency

Beginning in 2015 the EER for the Southeastern Region of the US (includes Texas) is **12.2** EER

Starting January 2015, the minimum SEER for the Southeastern region of the US is **14** SEER for new systems



Seek an **EER** rating of 12.2 or higher for new systems

The higher the **SEER** rating the greater the savings

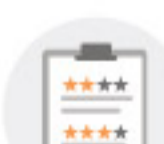
Choose Your Contractor Wisely

Improper installation of HVAC units can increase household energy use by **30%**

Avoid this by choosing the right contractor



Ask the contractor about his/her qualifications



Read reviews and references



Inquire about pricing upfront



Discuss available equipment and options



Choosing an HVAC system may seem daunting, but with some research and a little bit of help from your HVAC professional, you can be sure to pick the best system for your home and family.

Sources:

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