Best heat pumps for home use

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This guide will help you find the right heat pump for your home, whether it"s a ducted system or a mini-split, and whether you"re looking to replace or supplement a traditional heating and ...

If you"re considering purchasing or upgrading your heat pump, you"ll need to know exactly what to look for in terms of features and operating capacity. Finding the best heat pump brand for you and your family can save you money and energy all year long. Use this information as a guide as you shop for the brand and model that best suits your needs.

Once you decide on the right heat pump for your home, HVAC can deliver a comprehensive HVAC quote within 24 hours, giving you peace of mind to move forward with confidence.

A heat pump is an all-in-one heating and cooling system. In the summer, it operates similarly to a central air conditioning system by using a refrigerant to pull heat from inside the home and transfer it outside through the system"s compressor.

During the colder months, heat pumps operate in reverse. They use a reversing valve to seamlessly switch from cooling to heating mode. During the winter, heat pumps use refrigerant to extract heat from the outdoors and transfer it indoors. Even when it"s cold outside, there"s enough heat in the outside air to provide adequate heating. Since heat pumps simply move heat in and out of the home depending on the season, they don"t require fossil fuels such as natural gas to create heat. This makes them energy efficient and environmentally friendly.

In the past, heat pumps didn"t operate as efficiently once the temperature dropped below freezing. However, with new technology, heat pumps are incredibly efficient; many upgraded models can still operate efficiently in temperatures below zero.

Homeowners who live in far northern states such as Minnesota, North Dakota, and Alaska often pair their air-source heat pump with a dual-fuel system that consists of a heat pump and gas furnace. The gas furnace takes over when the temperature drops below what the heat pump can efficiently handle.

Air-source heat pumps are the most common type of heat pump, with an estimated 17 million American homes operating them. However, there are two other heat pump types to consider - geothermal heat pumps and ductless mini-split heat pumps.

Geothermal heat pumps are the most efficient HVAC systems on the market. Like air-source heat pumps, they operate by moving heat in and out of the home. But instead of exchanging heat with the outside air, geothermal heat pumps, also referred to as ground-source heat pumps, utilize the constant temperature 6 feet

underground, where it"s typically 55 degrees on average.

During the warmer months, the geothermal heat pump"s heat exchanger extracts indoor heat and transfers it underground to cool a home. During the colder season, geothermal HVAC systems work in reverse, by taking heat from underground and moving it indoors.

Geothermal heat pump systems use a ground loop, which is a series of pipes buried underground. The ground loop serves as a heat source during the winter months and a heat sink during the warmer months.

Geothermal heat pumps are more expensive than other HVAC systems, costing an average of $13,781, according to Angi. That price is just an average, as factors such as the size of your home and the need for ductwork affect the price. You can recoup the higher costs over time through significantly lower energy bills, as heat pumps are 300-600% efficient on cold winter nights.

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