



WHY ENERGY STAR® QUALIFIED COOLING EQUIPMENT?

When you purchase cooling equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR, you know that it meets strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with no compromise on quality. When you use less energy, you help to protect the environment while saving money on your energy bills.

If one household in ten bought ENERGY STAR heating and cooling equipment, the change would prevent 17 billion pounds of air pollution.

HOW DO I BENEFIT?

> **Money savings.** The average household spends \$1300 each year on utility bills, with as much as half of that going to heat and cool the home. A properly sized and installed ENERGY STAR qualified air conditioner uses 25 percent less electricity than a standard new central air conditioner. How much you save on your utility bills will vary based on your use and climate. In warmer regions, you will often save more. Other ENERGY STAR qualified cooling equipment, such as heat pumps and programmable thermostats, also provide significant savings, convenience, and improved comfort.

> **First-cost savings potential.** There may be utility or manufacturer rebates and special financing options in your area for ENERGY STAR qualified products. When getting quotes from contractors, ask them about rebates and financing options that can help you get higher quality products for less.

HOW CAN MY COOLING SYSTEM PURCHASE HELP THE ENVIRONMENT?

ENERGY STAR qualified home cooling products use at least 25 percent less energy than new conventional models. When you use less energy, you are responsible for fewer fossil fuels burned at your local power plant, which means cleaner air for you and the generations to come.

HOW DO I GET AND MAINTAIN A HIGH-PERFORMING COOLING SYSTEM?

1. Make sure it's an ENERGY STAR. ENERGY STAR's high-efficiency guidelines apply to cooling equipment with ratings of 13 SEER and 11 EER or higher.

> Seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) is the measure of a unit's average energy efficiency across the cooling season. The minimum federal energy-efficiency standard for new equipment is 10 SEER. While 10 SEER units may be more efficient than the system you currently have in your home, they are considered standard efficiency, not high efficiency.

> The energy efficiency ratio (EER) is a measurement of how energy-efficient a unit remains during a specific time of persistent use. At high outdoor temperatures (95°F and above), many central air conditioning units do not operate efficiently. A high EER rating ensures that your unit is operating efficiently at all temperatures.

2. Get the right sized unit. When it comes to cooling equipment, bigger isn't always better. Studies show that one-third to one-half of home air conditioners don't work the way they should because they are over-sized. While a larger-sized product is intended to meet the needs of a larger area, you will experience increased costs and less comfort if the equipment is too large for your home. Over-sized equipment will operate in short run times or cycles, not allowing the unit to reach efficient operation or deliver even temperatures throughout your home.

Don't assume that the size of your new system will be the same as your old equipment. Your old equipment may have been too large for your house, you may have built an addition to your home since the equipment was last replaced, or you may have improved your insulation and sealed air leaks in your home. Don't accept square footage or other rule of thumb calculations. Ask your contractor to calculate the right size for your cooling equipment with the Air Conditioning Contractors of America's Manual J procedure or other computer-based equivalent.

3. Ensure that your system components match. There are two types of systems: packaged units that contain their components in a single enclosure, and split systems that have an outdoor condensing unit and an indoor coil. If you choose a split system, the condensing unit and coil components must be matched and replaced together when a new system is installed to ensure that your new cooling equipment performs at its peak efficiency.

4. Perform routine maintenance before hot weather hits. Once each year, before the hot weather comes and contractors get busy, you should have a professional contractor "tune up" your cooling system. Regular maintenance is one of the best investments you can make in your cooling equipment to help keep it running efficiently and without interruption. Even the best equipment can eventually experience problems if not maintained properly.

THE BENEFITS OF ANNUAL MAINTENANCE:

- > Maintain or increase your home's comfort
- > Keep your equipment running efficiently, saving you money on utility costs
- > Prevent problems before they occur
- > Avoid accelerated failure of your heat exchanger, compressor, motor or other parts
- > Lengthen the life of your system
- > Protect the validity of your equipment warranty
- > Maintain the safety of your cooling system

If you've decided to make changes to your cooling system, it may be cost-effective to make changes to the heating system at the same time. Look for furnaces, boilers, electric air-source heat pumps, and geothermal heat pumps that have earned the ENERGY STAR.

Also, remember to look for the ENERGY STAR in other product categories, including lighting, appliances, home office equipment, and electronics. Even new homes and commercial buildings can earn the ENERGY STAR.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit www.energystar.gov or call 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937)