

Tips: Second Quarter 2010

Doing it right... (selecting the correct system sizing and duct for your comfort needs)



Getting the wrong size is the most common mistake people make, regardless of the type of cooling system. Underestimate your cooling needs and you could be sweating and have higher electric bills, but buy more Btu/hr. and you'll have a cold, damp space. Consider our tips for these scenarios:

Upgrading your central air. Don't automatically buy the same sized system. Any changes you've made to improve your home's energy efficiency, such as replacing windows or adding insulation, can reduce your cooling needs. On the other hand, if you've added rooms, you might need more cooling. *So have your contractor do a load calculation based on a recognized method, such as **Manual J** from the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA). The contractor's evaluation should include whether your ducts need to be resized, sealed and insulated, or replaced. Remember that an indoor evaporator coil and outdoor condenser must be a matched set, or the performance, efficiency, and capacity claims might not be accurate.*

Adding central air. After the required cooling capacity has been determined, focus on installation. Adding a central system is relatively straightforward if you already have ductwork for your heating. *Your contractor should use a duct-sizing method such as ACCA's **Manual D** and make sure there are enough supply registers and appropriate return air to deliver sufficient air to the right spots. Leaky or un-insulated ducts can reduce system efficiency considerably.* But if your home doesn't have ducts, proper sized duct systems can be added.

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Call us today for more information or to schedule our comfort consultant to help you design your personal heating and cooling system.

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