

Heat Pump Or Furnace—What's The Best Choice For Your Home?

(NAPSA)—Most homes that require heat rely on furnaces or heat pumps to circulate warm air throughout the house. Knowing which piece of equipment is right for your home isn't always easy. The experts at the YORK brand of Johnson Controls suggest you consider the following questions before making a decision:

What is the difference between a heat pump and a furnace? Unlike furnaces, which burn fuel to create heat, a heat pump removes heat from the air outside your home and transfers it inside. In the summer, the process reverses as the heat pump removes heat from the air inside your home and transfers it outside, cooling your home without the need for a separate air-conditioning system.

How do you measure the efficiency of a heat pump and a furnace? The efficiency of a heat pump is indicated by the unit's heating seasonal performance factor (HSPF), while the annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) measures the efficiency of a gas furnace. The higher the HSPF or AFUE, the more efficient the unit and the less fuel it requires to heat your house.

Can heat pumps and furnaces operate effectively in any climate? A heat pump will heat your home more affordably than a furnace if you live in an area where the temperature rarely dips below 30 degrees. As temperatures drop below 30 degrees, the heat pump must work harder to extract heat and its efficiency decreases as a result. In this case, a furnace is probably a better choice, because it can operate in any climate.

What is the cost of fuel in your area? Although electric furnaces are often considered 100



Here's a hot tip: Furnaces and heat pumps each have different advantages.

percent efficient, these units may be more expensive to operate, depending on the cost of electricity in your area. That's why it's always important to consider the cost of available fuels, including electricity, natural gas and oil, and how they impact operating costs of the unit you select.

What equipment do the systems require? A heat pump usually consists of an indoor and an outdoor unit to heat and cool a house, while a furnace consists of a single indoor unit that generates heat. If cooling is required, the home comfort system that uses a furnace also requires separate indoor and outdoor cooling units.

Are two-stage operation and electronic controls available with both units? Yes. Select YORK Affinity heat pumps and furnaces incorporate two-stage heating for improved comfort, efficiency and sound levels and electronic controls that offer tighter temperature control and the ability to program periods of temperature setback.

To learn more about heating systems, visit www.york.com, follow it on YouTube and @YorkHVAC on Twitter or call (877) 874-7378.