



Hints For Homeowners

A Guide To Finding And Hiring A Heating And Cooling Contractor

(NAPS)—Choosing a heating and cooling contractor can be just as important as selecting the equipment that makes up your home comfort system. That's because your contractor will help you pick the system that is best suited to your needs, install what is probably the most significant investment you make in your home and provide the technical expertise to keep it operating efficiently. As you begin your search, you should first learn as much as you can about heating and air-conditioning to prepare yourself for the interview process.

Next, ask your family and friends, co-workers, real estate agents and home improvement specialists for their recommendations. The Better Business Bureau also provides consumer ratings for specific contractors as well as complaints lodged against them.

After you have identified potential contractors, consider these steps as you make a hiring decision:

- Ask if the contractor performs the work or subcontracts it out.
- Verify that the contractors are properly insured by having them show you proof of liability and workers' compensation insurance for the contractor, as well as any technicians and subcontractors the contractor employs.
- Ask to see state and local licenses and certifications for refrigerant handling.
- Check for membership in professional organizations. Does the contractor belong to the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA)? Is the contractor certified by the North American Technician Excellence (NATE)?



You can have more comfort for less cost if you heed a few hints on hiring a heating and cooling specialist.

- Discuss the services the contractor offers. Does the list of services include scheduled maintenance, repairs and 24-hour service?
- Determine whether the contractor has an established track record.
- Request and check references, asking about performance and whether work was completed on time and within budget.
- Expect the contractor to visit your home to conduct an on-site inspection, ask questions about your home comfort needs and address any questions you might have before making recommendations regarding service or equipment.
- Review an itemized and written estimate for the proposed work.
- Carefully read the final contract.

It's also a good idea to begin the process long before you need to purchase, replace or repair an air-conditioning system. That way, you can conduct a thorough search without the pressure of a deadline and be confident in the selection you make.

To find a dealer nearby, visit www.luxaire.com, follow the company on YouTube and @LuxaireHVAC on Twitter or call (877) 874-7378.