

## New Comfort For Older Homes

(NAPSA)—The charm of an older home is an attractive selling feature. Less appealing are the inefficiencies of an older heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system or the absence of a cooling system. Updating to an HVAC system improves comfort and often makes good economic sense, but it requires careful planning. Asking the right questions and enlisting the help of a qualified HVAC contractor can make it possible to create a comfortable, efficient environment without spoiling the character of these classic structures.

### **Step 1: Determine how much equipment you need**

Ask your HVAC contractor to conduct a “Manual J” load calculation to determine your home’s unique heating and cooling needs. This calculation analyzes everything that affects air temperature in your home—things like windows, orientation to the sun, and duct leakage. Using this calculation, your contractor can recommend the right-size equipment for your home.

### **Step 2: Determine the location of the unit and inspect ductwork**

Ask your contractor where the new equipment will be located and whether your ductwork is properly sealed, insulated and sized for the equipment. Dust and debris in the ductwork can reduce the HVAC system’s efficiency and damage its components, so have the ductwork inspected before shopping for a new system.

Your contractor should also inspect the home’s electrical system to be sure it provides enough power to handle a new, upgraded HVAC system.

### **Step 3: Discuss your efficiency and “stage” options**

Whether shopping for a furnace, air conditioner or heat pump, always check the efficiency of the unit you are considering. The efficiency of a fuel-burning furnace is expressed as the annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE). Air-conditioning systems are rated according to their seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) and



heat pump efficiency is expressed as the unit’s heating seasonal performance factor (HSPF). Generally speaking, a higher AFUE, SEER or HSPF means increased efficiency and reduced operating expenses.

If you’re in the market for a new furnace, choose from a single-stage, two-stage or modulating furnace. Single-stage furnaces operate at full capacity all the time. Two-stage furnaces have two separate heating settings—a lower setting that is used when the furnace turns on and runs during milder winter days and a higher stage for colder conditions. Modulating furnaces, such as the York® Affinity™ Series gas furnaces, can run at any speed within a set range, allowing them to choose the precise speed that’s most efficient for the given heating demand and offering the most energy-efficient heating solution.

Also, consider installing a programmable thermostat to control your new HVAC system. These thermostats offer accurate, reliable, energy-saving performance, and in some cases they include Wi-Fi® support to work with mobile devices to easily program a system remotely.

### **Step 4: Understand your warranty**

Finally, be sure to check the warranty coverage offered by the equipment manufacturer. Your contractor should be very clear about what’s covered. Also, ask whether an extended warranty is available and what advantages it offers.

To learn more about energy-efficient heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) products, visit [www.york.com](http://www.york.com), [www.youtube.com/yorkhomecomfort](http://www.youtube.com/yorkhomecomfort) and [@YorkHVAC](https://twitter.com/YorkHVAC) on Twitter or call (877) 874-7378.