

Q&A

ASK THE HOME INSPECTOR!

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Home & Building Inspections • Radon & Mold Testing



The following article is intended to provide pertinent home and building inspection information to the readers. Your input is welcome by emailing your questions to pat@hbponline.com.

Question: We will be purchasing a new air conditioner and are wondering if we should get a heat pump instead of a standard system?

Answer: Several factors need to be considered to determine if a heat pump will be cost effective for you. They are more expensive to purchase than a regular air conditioner. Heat pumps provide both heating and cooling, and can provide energy savings. You need to determine if it will provide you enough savings in heating to offset the added cost.

If your heating system is electric, a heat pump will be less expensive to operate than the electric furnace, and it is probably worthwhile.

If your heating system is natural gas or propane gas, you will need to weigh the cost of gas vs. the cost of electricity (heat pumps are electric). This is somewhat difficult, since the cost of gas and electricity varies from year to year.

Finally, if your furnace is gas, and if it is a high-efficiency model, a heat pump may not provide enough savings to warrant the added cost. Some electric utilities will offer discounts to their customers that operate heat pumps by reducing their electrical usage rate, and this should be a consideration also.

For information, consult the U.S. Dept. of Energy at: www.energysavers.gov/your_home.

Go to our website at www.hbponline.com for more information about heat pumps, see our specials and order an inspection online.



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