



INTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Heat Pump Or Furnace—How To Decide

(NAPSA)—If a new heating system is in your home's future, chances are you will want to consider the pros and cons of heat pumps and furnaces.

Both heat pumps and furnaces rely on heated air—as opposed to heated water—to distribute heat through a home. But that's where the similarity ends. While a furnace uses electricity or gas to produce heat, a heat pump reduces energy costs by extracting heat from outside air and circulating it through your house.

In warm weather, the process reverses, as the unit collects heat from the air inside your home and carries it outside.

Here are some tips on selecting the system that's right for you:

- Consider the climate. If you reside in an area where the temperature rarely dips below 30 degrees, experts say a heat pump may heat your home more affordably than a furnace.

- Compare efficiencies. The efficiency of a gas furnace is indicated by the unit's Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) rating, while the Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) measures a heat pump's efficiency. The higher the AFUE or HSPF, the more efficient the unit and the less fuel it requires to heat your home.

- Electric furnaces are often considered 100 percent efficient. However, these units may be more expensive to operate, depending on the cost of electricity in your area. That's why it's also important to consider the cost of available fuels as you make a decision,



It's important to consider the cost of available fuels as you make a decision between a heat pump and a furnace.

especially as the price of natural gas and oil continues to increase.

As you compare the efficiencies of heating systems, remember to compare the initial cost against the annual operating expense.

- Some furnaces, such as the Coleman® Echelon™ series from Johnson Controls, offer multi-stage and variable-speed to improve efficiency, maintain constant temperatures and reduce sound levels.

- Electronic controls on furnaces and heat pumps may offer tighter temperature control and the ability to program periods of temperature setback, improving both system efficiency and occupant comfort.

- Look for a brand of equipment that has a reputation for quality and reliability. The Coleman Echelon Series of furnaces and heat pumps offer the latest features in heating technology and control systems.

To learn more about heating systems, visit www.colemanac.com or call (877) 874-7378.