

Ten Questions To Ask When Replacing HVAC

(NAPSA)—Shopping for a home cooling system—even if the system fails during a heat wave—doesn't have to be unpleasant but you should ask the right questions before making a big investment. The experts at the York® brand of Johnson Controls suggest you ask your HVAC contractor these questions.

1. Should I repair my existing heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system or replace it with a new system? Your contractor should inspect the system and evaluate its operation before answering this question. A qualified contractor can identify both short- and long-term repair costs, so you can compare the expenses of repair and the investment in a new, more efficient system.

2. If I replace my system, can any of the existing components be reused? A thorough inspection of your system, including the electrical system, ductwork and other components, will tell you what needs to be replaced.

3. What equipment do you recommend and why? Will it fit where my existing equipment is now? Your contractor may first recommend a “Manual J” load calculation to analyze the thermal characteristics of your house, to determine your home's unique cooling needs and properly size the equipment.

4. What is the efficiency rating of the equipment? Air conditioners and heat pumps are rated according to the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER). Generally, a higher SEER rating means more efficiency and lower operating costs.

5. What is the estimated annual operating cost of the system? This will help you determine the total cost of the system over the lifetime of the equipment.

6. What's the best thermostat to use with my system? A programmable thermostat will provide accurate, reliable, energy-



saving performance. For added savings and convenience, the York brand of Johnson Controls created the Affinity Residential Communicating Control with Wi-Fi support, which works with mobile devices to easily program your system remotely.

7. What can I do to improve the indoor air quality? Poor indoor air quality can result from insufficient ventilation and indoor pollutants like animal hair and dust. Fortunately, HVAC manufacturers offer humidifiers, dehumidifiers, ventilation systems, ultraviolet lights and air filter technologies to help.

8. What warranty coverage does the new equipment provide? Your contractor should be very clear about what's covered. Also, ask about an extended warranty—whether one is available and what advantages it offers.

9. Does the manufacturer, utility or government offer any rebates on the equipment? Your contractor should be able to help you access any rebates for which your equipment is eligible.

10. What is the installed price of the equipment, and is financing available? Your written estimate should clearly outline all costs related to equipment and labor. Many contractors offer different types of financing packages.

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