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RESIDENTIAL HVAC

REPAIR OR REPLACE?

What factors help you to determine whether to repair or replace a residential heating and cooling system.

Four elements to consider before repairing an old, inefficient heating and cooling system

AGE

HVAC equipment will eventually show its age. The closer the equipment is to its "life expectancy," the more likely you should replace it.

EFFICIENCY

Older units may have a low energy-efficiency rating. The long-term energy bill savings of purchasing a high-efficiency HVAC system may outweigh the price of a series of costly repairs.

REPAIR COST

Consumer Reports* suggests that you not spend more than 50 percent of the cost of a new product on repairing the old one.

USE

The more a system is used, the faster it may need to be replaced. For instance, cooling systems in the warm climates may wear out more quickly than those in the cooler climates, and vice versa for heating systems.

*Consumer reports.org/cro/magazine/2014/02/repair-or-replace

What to look for in a new system?

COMFORT FEATURES: Many new systems offer variable speed fans and compressors that help reduce temperature swings, and communicating control technology that continuously and intelligently monitor performance designed to offer customized indoor comfort.

RELIABILITY: Quality materials, proven manufacturing processes, and final run testing help to reinforce the reliability of consistent indoor comfort.

EFFICIENCY RATING: Minimum energy efficiency standards and attainable ratings have been increasing, providing homeowners with additional high-efficiency options for heating and cooling systems.

PRICE: More efficient systems may cost more up front, but may qualify for rebates and can save you money on energy costs in the long run.

UNIT INSTALLATION: Proper sizing and professional installation of a system customized to your home's design are key factors in achieving tested efficiency ratings, lower operating costs, and consistent indoor comfort.

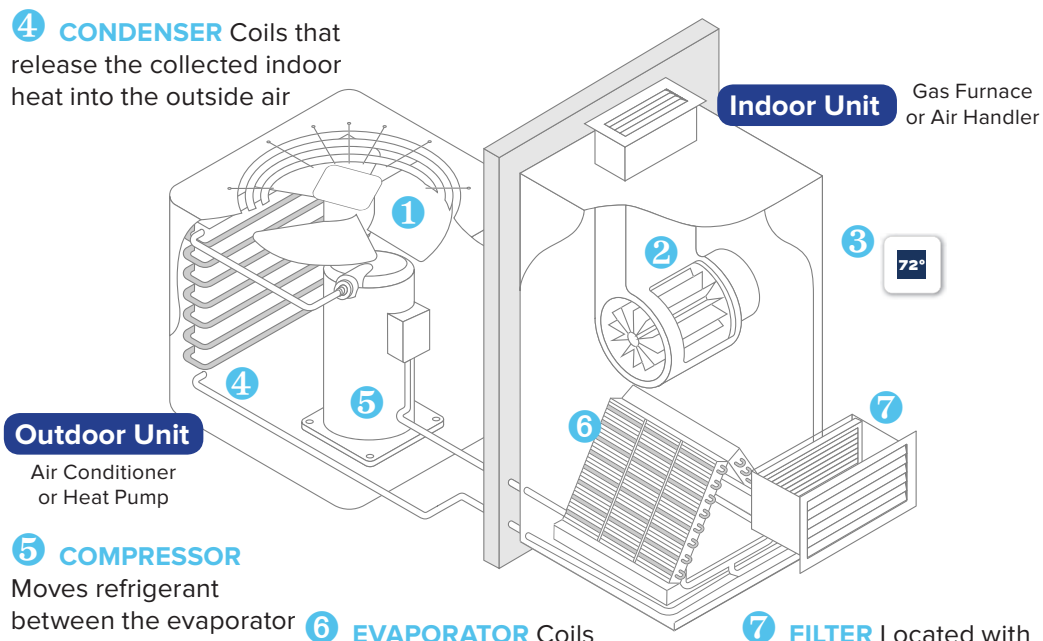
Know your cooling system

1 FAN The fan blows over the condenser to help remove heat from the unit's refrigerant

2 BLOWER The blower (or fan) circulates indoor air over the evaporator distributing the conditioned air to ductwork

3 THERMOSTAT Sets the temperature of comfort selected throughout the entire home

4 CONDENSER Coils that release the collected indoor heat into the outside air



5 COMPRESSOR Moves refrigerant between the evaporator and the condenser to help create conditioned indoor air

6 EVAPORATOR Coils that remove humidity from the indoor air, creating the sensation of cold air

7 FILTER Located with the indoor unit to remove particulates from the indoor air passing over the filter

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