

Pros and Cons of Switching to an Electric Heat Pump

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What are Heat Pumps?

Heat pumps are great alternatives to your typical furnaces and air conditioning units. Heat pumps are HVAC systems that use electricity to transfer heat to and from your home or building from the outside (air or ground source) as the seasons change. As most heat pumps are modulating, they create more comfortable temperatures and humidity levels for your home. They are [extremely energy efficient](#) and work great in all climates.

Pros of Switching to an Electric Heat Pump:

If you are debating if an electric heat pump is right for you below are some of the pros an electric heat pump can offer:

- **High Efficiency Solution for Heating and Cooling Your Home:** An electric heat pump is much more efficient when it comes to heating and cooling your home. Rather than using fossil fuels to heat or cool your home, an electric heat pump transfers energy 50% more efficiently than your new conventional heating and AC system providing you more precise temperatures control around your home.
- **Very Quiet:** Electric heat pumps are a very quiet option for heating and cooling. Your typical heating and AC systems can get extremely noisy. Electric heat pumps work with less noise allowing you to do your tasks and sleep at night with no disruption while your system operates efficiently and quietly.
- **Individual Thermostats for Rooms:** Rather than a single thermostat to control your whole house, installing electric ductless heat pumps, each having their own thermostat, allows you to set rooms at different temperatures, so everyone can be at their desired most comfortable temperature. This is a great option for a family who is more comfortable in a wide range of temperatures, as everyone individually can have a temperature they like, all from the same system.
- **Carbon Footprint Reduction:** Unlike other traditional heating and cooling systems, electric heat pumps will reduce your overall carbon footprint. Installing an electric heat pump instead of a gas furnace can reduce your heating emissions more than 45% or more over the next ten years.
- **Utility Rebates:** Programs across the country are providing incentives for homeowners to switch to an electric heat pump system that uses clean energy rather than your standard gas or oil furnace that contributes to high carbon dioxide emissions. These programs typically offer utility rebates as their incentives for homeowners to make the switch from fossil fuel-based heating and cooling systems to heat pumps. An example is Connecticut's Home Energy Solutions program offered by [Energize CT](#). This program provides a generous \$500 to \$1,000 in rebate incentives for every 12,000 BTU unit.

Cons of Switching to an Electric Heat Pump:

If you are interested in making the switch to an electric heat pump but are curious as to some of the possible cons that come along with the switch, below we discuss what the possible drawbacks are of an electric heat pump:

Cost to Install: There is typically a higher cost to installing a heat pump. However, there are many incentives available which help reduce the cost significantly including rebates and low-interest or no-interest loans. It is valuable to think about the cost-to-own versus the cost-to-buy. The initial financial outlay may be greater but over time heat pumps can make up this cost difference by the money saved through efficiency.

It is important to consider all of these factors when deciding whether or not you want to install an electric heat pump. Electric heat pumps are efficient ways to heat and cool your home while minimizing your energy usage. These systems are reliable and quiet and offer precise temperature control for each individual room in your home. Before making any decisions, it is also a good idea to speak to a Connecticut HVAC professional such as Highwood Mechanical Contractors, Inc. and discuss these pros and cons in relation to your home. We also encourage Guilford residents to review the other material on the HeatSmart website, <https://heatsmartct.org/heat-pumps/>.