

The cold hard facts!

Home Aircon Buyer's Guide



When purchasing an air conditioning system for your home, there is much to consider — which is why we've drawn on our many years in the business and compiled this handy guide.

In the guide, you'll find answers to some of the most frequently asked questions that we hear on an almost daily basis.

Naturally, this guide is by no means comprehensive — if there is anything our experience has taught us, it's that there is no simple formula to use when figuring out how best to air condition your home. A one-size-fits-all approach simply doesn't work and reading a guide can never be a substitute for talking to an experienced professional.

BUT... it does give you a solid foundation of knowledge, which will help when you're talking to your aircon specialist.

Choosing the right type of system for YOUR home

There are basically two types of air conditioning systems — split systems and ducted air conditioning. To decide which of these two types best suits your needs, you will need to decide what areas of your home you want to air-condition.

This may seem like a simple decision, but take the time to think it through carefully because it has important cost ramifications that could affect you for years to come.



A few things to bear in mind...

1. What area(s) in your home do you want air-conditioned?

If you only want to air condition a few rooms (for example in a small apartment or only selected rooms in your house), the best option is to set up a split system in each room.

This type of system is easier to install than ducted air conditioning and gives you more control over individual room temperatures. But... it does have some drawbacks — especially if you want to add more areas in the house to the system at a later stage.

2. Think about your family's long term air conditioning requirements

Remember we are living in an increasing warm climate AND our bodies are exposed to air-conditioning much more frequently than they were even a few short years ago. This means we are becoming accustomed to being in air-conditioned environments. It is very important therefore to consider not only your current needs, but to plan for future air conditioning requirements as well.

For example, if you purchase a split system to air condition only a few rooms, and later decide that you want to air condition more areas in your house — you would have to make a difficult choice. Either change the whole house over to a ducted system, or add more individual split units (which would be more costly in the long run).

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temperatures in excess of 60°C. To make it as easy as possible to get the job done, it is best to ensure that they have clear access between their van and the ceiling space.

6. ... And after installation

Once all final connections have been made, the system must be tested to ensure that the refrigerant charge is correct and the airflow to all areas is correct. During this testing period the temperature of your house may vary dramatically.

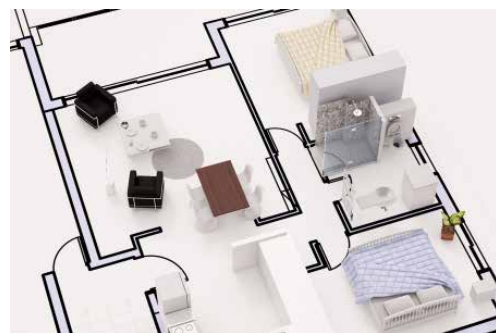
After testing, the crew should explain how to operate the system, paying special attention to the temperature and zone controllers.

Make sure that you keep a copy of the instructions in a safe place. Also ask about maintenance and warranties — make sure that the warranty covers both installation AND unit and that the relevant warranty cards are sent to the manufacturer.

Why zone your air conditioning system?

Implementing a well-thought out zoning strategy when installing your home air conditioning system, can reduce both upfront costs and running expenses — while providing you with the ability to independently modulate the temperature in different areas of your home.

Ducted systems offer the widest choice and most effective zoning options. Zoned systems allow you to open and close the ducts to certain areas of your home — for example, you can isolate areas that are seldom used — reducing the size of air-conditioning unit you require and the running costs involved.



A professional air conditioning specialist will assist you with a plan that makes your air conditioning system as affordable and efficient as possible. This plan should clearly show the locations of the indoor and outdoor units, temperature and zone controllers, return air grilles, and supply air diffusers. It should also ensure that those components with the highest noise levels (outside units) are kept away from sensitive areas.

A few MORE things to bear in mind

1. Always ensure that the warranty covers all components of the system, not just the unit.
2. Temperatures in different areas in your house may drift by between 1.5°C and 2°C unless you opt for a temperature-based zoning system.
3. Be sure to ask about maintenance and how often you should clean your filter.
4. Fill in all warranty cards and be sure to return them to the relevant manufacturer.

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