

# RESIDENTIAL HVAC



## REPAIR or REPLACE?

Use this guide to help you determine if you should repair or replace your home's heating and cooling system.

### Factors to consider when making this important decision

#### SYSTEM AGE



Systems are expected to last 15-20 years. The closer the unit is to its "life expectancy" the more likely you should replace it.

#### EFFICIENCY



Older units have lower Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) ratings, compared to today's systems that can be up to 20 SEER. The lower the SEER rating, the less efficient and more costly it will be to operate the system.

#### REPAIR COSTS



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

#### RUN CYCLE



The chronological age of the system is often less important than how often it runs. For instance, AC systems in the South are going to wear out more quickly than those in the North and vice versa for furnaces.

#### REFRIGERANT TYPE



Older units often use R-22 refrigerant which is being phased out in favor of more efficient and environmentally friendly refrigerants such as R410A. It could be more costly in the long run to continue to service a system with obsolete refrigerant.

### What to look for in a new system



**Comfort Features** - Some systems offer programmable thermostats, variable speed compressor systems and fans, which enable better humidity and temperature control.



**Efficiency Rating** - New systems with higher SEER ratings can provide improved efficiency and comfort. The higher efficiency can also result in lower costs to operate.



**Price** - More efficient systems can cost more up front, but can save money in the long run and may qualify for rebates.



**Unit Installation** - Proper size and professional installation of the unit, specified to the need of your home are key factors in achieving lower operating costs.

### Know your HVAC system

#### 1 FAN

The fan blows over the condenser to dissipate the heat outside

#### 2 BLOWER

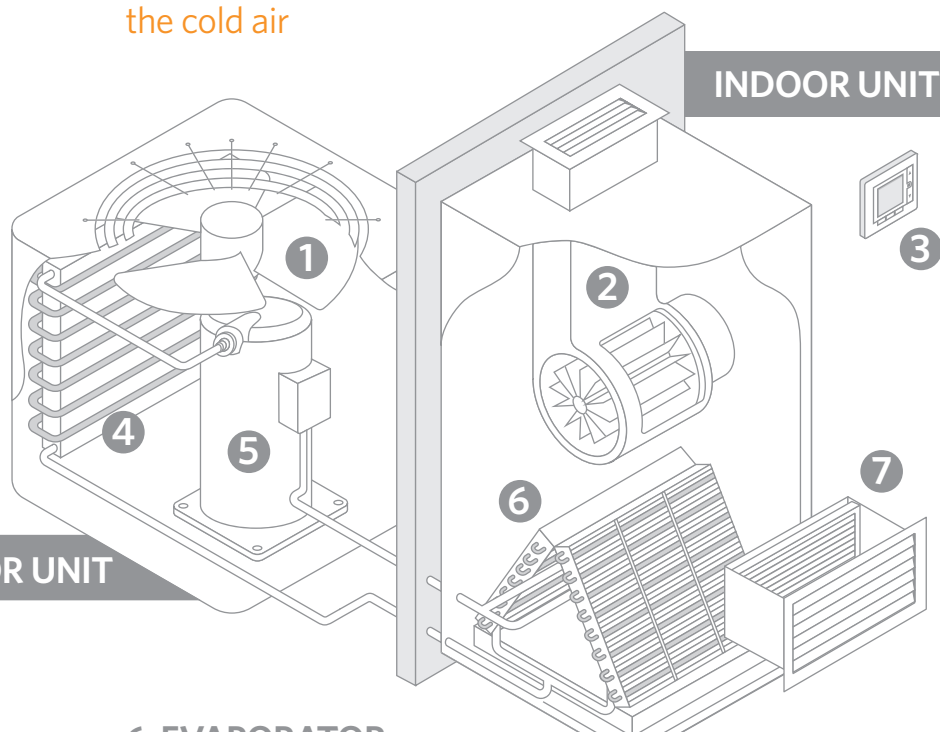
The blower (or fan) circulates air over the evaporator distributing the cold air

#### 3 THERMOSTAT

Controls the temperature of cold air distributed throughout the home

#### 4 CONDENSER

Hot coils release collected heat into the outside air



#### 5 COMPRESSOR

Moves refrigerant between the evaporator and the condenser to cool the inside air

#### 6 EVAPORATOR

Cooling coils remove heat and humidity from the air using refrigerant, creating cold air

#### 7 FILTER

Located with the indoor unit to remove particles from the air

\*Consumerreports.org/cro/magazine/2014/02/repair-or-replace



To learn more go to [AC-HeatingConnect.com](http://AC-HeatingConnect.com)



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