



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN REPLACING A CENTRAL HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEM

With the **HEATING & COOLING INCENTIVE**, you can receive up to \$650\* on eligible replacement central heating systems† and **ENERGY STAR®** qualified central cooling systems purchased from and installed by a participating contractor. Most importantly, once your installation is complete, you can save up to \$325†† a year on your electricity costs.

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

With as much as 60% of your annual energy bill going towards heating and cooling your home, it makes sense to invest in energy-efficient central heating and cooling systems.

**Choose a contractor:** Look for a licensed and experienced professional who is registered as a participating contractor in the **HEATING & COOLING INCENTIVE**. Incentives are available for residents and businesses (businesses with residential-type systems) who have purchased and installed eligible replacement central heating or cooling equipment through a participating contractor. To find a participating contractor in your area, visit [saveonenergy.ca](http://saveonenergy.ca)

**Equipment sizing:** It is important that your system is sized correctly. Over-sized systems will use more energy and provide less comfort. Your contractor should perform a heat loss/gain calculation that considers such things as the age of the home, square footage and home's exposure to the sun.

**ENERGY STAR qualified equipment:** It has the same features as standard products but also incorporates energy-saving technology. They can save up to 15% a year on your heating and cooling costs.

**Programmable thermostat:** Maximize your energy savings by having your participating contractor help you program your heating and cooling system for different times of the day.

### Cost/Quotes:

- Over time, a more efficient system's lower operating cost will more than pay for the higher upfront cost.
- Review your options. When comparing quotes, look at the type of equipment as well as the price.

**Warranty:** Ask about the manufacturer's warranty.

**Maintenance:** Without regular service, heating and cooling systems waste energy and are more likely to break down. Ask your contractor about annual servicing and also what maintenance you should perform (for example, replacing filters).



## HEATING SYSTEM SPECIFIC:

### Consider the system's Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) rating: Rates consumption efficiency.

- Minimum available in Canada is 90% efficiency (natural gas).
- High-efficiency furnaces have 92–97% efficiency (natural gas).

### Consider furnaces with variable-speed motors and/or two-stage furnaces:

- **Variable-speed furnace:** Purchasing high-efficiency equipment with an electronically commutated motor (ECM) qualifies for the **HEATING & COOLING INCENTIVE** and can reduce the electrical consumption of the furnace motor by as much as 60% over a standard motor.
- **Two-stage furnace:** Operates at low fire or high fire. The longer run periods with low fire allow for fewer start/stop cycles, less drafts and very little temperature variance.

## COOLING SYSTEM SPECIFIC:

Split systems are most commonly found in the home. These consist of an outdoor condenser, indoor evaporator coil and blower motor. Consider the following:

**Evaporator/Condenser:** The evaporator is located inside your furnace and the condenser is the unit that is located outside the home. Both units need to be properly matched to work together and both should be replaced at the same time for maximum efficiency.

**Air ducts:** Ensure your contractor inspects the ducts for leakage, damage, under-sizing and compatibility with your new system. Up to 30% of your system's efficiency is a result of proper duct work.

### SEER/EER levels:

- **Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating (SEER):** Measures how efficiently a cooling system will operate over a season.
- **Energy Efficiency Rating (EER):** Measures how efficiently a cooling system will operate when the outdoor temperature is at a specific level (32° Celsius).

A minimum SEER of 14.5 and minimum EER of 12.0 is required to meet the ENERGY STAR ratings to qualify for the **HEATING & COOLING INCENTIVE**.

### For more information contact:

Your local electric utility or the Ontario Power Authority at [saveonenergy.ca](http://saveonenergy.ca)

