



7 Things to Look for in a Heating and Cooling Contractor

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Is your HVAC system 10 years old or more? If so, you may be looking at replacing it in the next few years. If you have a newer HVAC system, you want to ensure proper maintenance to keep it running properly. Either way, at some point, you will need to hire an HVAC contractor.

Here are seven areas to consider during your search:

Licensing and experience

Your heating and air conditioning system is likely the most expensive equipment in your home. Whoever works on it should have appropriate training and licensing. A contractor should have at least a minimal level of bonding and insurance.

Ask about a prospective contractor's experience. While longevity alone won't guarantee that a contractor will do a good job, stability in the business indicates a contractor is doing something right.

Ask if the contractor carries top brands and about the technicians' training with these brands. Every system and manufacturer is unique. A quality contractor will ensure that technicians have had the right training to optimize installations.

Expect a home evaluation

A contractor should inspect before giving a price. They should spend time inspecting your current system to assess your specific needs. A larger system isn't always better. The size of your heating and cooling system should be based on the size of your house, level of insulation, and number of windows. A good contractor will inspect your duct system (if applicable) for air leaks and insulation and measure airflow to make sure that it all meets the manufacturer's specifications.

Think beyond price

Don't start your search by looking for the lowest price. You're almost guaranteed to find a fly-by-night freelance contractor who works from their home and is unlicensed and uninsured. They will most likely install your equipment improperly, which will contribute to higher energy bills and maintenance problems. Consider price only after you've narrowed your choices down to a few quality contractors.

Are they someone you want to work with?

You are going to be spending a lot of time with your contractor. As you make your decision, think about whether you feel comfortable with the company's background, methods, and communication skills. Everyone should be clear about all aspects of the project. If not, you could end up disappointed, frustrated, and possibly over budget when the job is completed.

Go Green and save

There are advantages to contractors who use "green" products that are more energy-efficient and use fewer natural resources. A quality contractor will be up to date on the latest energy-efficient models and will know how to properly install them. Contractors who are not current with the latest HVAC technology might discourage you from buying higher-efficiency equipment because they do not know how to properly install it.

Use tax credits and rebates to save even more

Keep your costs down. For qualified ENERGY STAR heating and cooling equipment, there are credits and rebates available from the federal government and your local utility company. Homeowners who purchase qualified energy-efficient heating, cooling, and water-heating equipment may be eligible for a tax credit.

A good contractor will help you secure the maximum rebates and tax breaks available.

Contract, contract, contract

Every project should have a contract, no matter the size of the estimated work.

Every detail about the project should be included in this contract, from start and finish dates to a complete description of the work. It should include materials that will be used, including the brand or make of the equipment. The contract should spell out the payment schedule and a time limit for fixing defects. A good contract ensures that if a dispute arises, it can be dealt with in a timely manner.

The right HVAC contractor can make all the difference. Always look for an established company with a good reputation that guarantees their work.

We hope you keep **Go Green Express Home Services** in mind searching for a quality contractor. We provide HVAC services for Orange, Dutchess, Ulster, and Putnam Counties.

To learn more or schedule an appointment, visit us at GGEHS.com or call us at 845-237-2291.

