

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HEAT PUMPS



Q. Are heat pumps something new?

A. No, they have been in use for many years. Thousands of Kansans, including many Kansas City citizens, heat and cool their homes with a heat pump. Heat pump systems sold and installed today are even more efficient and reliable than previous models.

Q. Is the gas company right when it says heat pumps cost more to buy than gas furnaces?

A. No, not when you compare heating and cooling systems of equal efficiency.

Q. When I buy a heat pump, will my air conditioner and furnace be removed?

A. The air conditioner will be removed, but the furnace may or may not be removed. The outdoor unit of your central air conditioner will be removed since the heat pump will also serve as your air conditioner. The existing furnace may also be removed, or kept as a supplemental heat source for your heat pump. Whether the furnace is removed or not depends on factors such as age and mechanical condition of the unit. You should follow the advice of a qualified heating and air conditioning expert.

Q. Will my monthly energy bills be lower if I have a heat pump?

A. Yes. In nearly all cases, the electric bill for heating with a heat pump is less than the gas bill for a natural gas furnace. This is true for the new 'high efficiency' gas furnaces being sold today, and certainly true for the older, inefficient gas furnaces in most area homes.

Q. Is the gas company right when it says I will be uncomfortable with a heat pump because air distributed by the heat pump is a lower temperature than air from a gas furnace?

A. No. Few people find a home heated with a heat pump to be uncomfortable. In fact, some people prefer the heat pump precisely because of the lower temperature of the air it distributes. They prefer the more constant air temperature with a heat pump to the periodic blasts of much hotter air from a gas furnace.