

HEAT PUMPS: YEAR-ROUND COMFORT FOR CANADIAN HOMES

RELIABLE. EFFICIENT. ALL-SEASON COMFORT.
EVEN IN CANADIAN WINTERS



DID YOU KNOW?

HEAT PUMPS ARE USED IN 60% OF
HOMES IN NORWAY – AND THEY WORK
IN CANADIAN WINTERS TOO!

WHY HEAT PUMPS?



Heat pumps are the future of home heating and cooling

- ✓ The most **sustainable** way to heat a home and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- ✓ Use the same **trusted technology** that keeps food safe in your freezer
- ✓ **Effective in cold climates:** in Norway, 60% of homes use a heat pump for heating
- ✓ Can make your home **safer** - no risk of gas leaks or carbon monoxide

There are different types of heat pumps

- **Air-source heat pumps:** Work by exchanging heat with outside air
- **Cold climate air-source heat pumps:** Optimized to perform at low temperatures
- **Ground-source heat pumps:** Draw heat from the earth or water



Matching Heat Pumps to Your Home

Current system:	Recommended heat pump:
Centrally ducted	Most heat pumps
Radiators or boilers	Air- or ground-to-water systems
Baseboard heating	Mini-split or multi-split systems

Will I Need a Backup Heat Source?

All-electric heat pumps can operate efficiently throughout the winter for most Canadians. Many models include a built-in backup heater for extra insurance on the coldest days.

You can pair a heat pump with a furnace, boiler or other system that takes over heating below a certain temperature. This may be a good option when:

- You own a newer furnace or boiler
- Your existing ductwork is undersized
- An all-electric heat pump option is outside your budget

WHY HEAT PUMPS ARE A SMART UPGRADE

- Cozy, even heat makes your home **more comfortable**
- **One system** that heats in winter and cools in summer
- The **most energy efficient** way to heat and cool your home
- Can **lower bills** in homes with baseboard, propane or oil heating
- **Safer for your family** – no risk of carbon monoxide
- Helps Canada **cut climate pollution**, one home at a time
- A smart, **one-time upgrade** with a big, **lasting impact**



How Does Heating with a Heat Pump Compare to a Furnace?



- Delivers **steady, even warmth** instead of bursts of hot air



- Works best when **kept at a consistent temperature** – no need to lower the thermostat at night



- Provides both **heating and cooling** in one system



- Both **heat pumps and furnaces require electricity** to operate – neither will run during a power outage*



- **Lower gas bills** help offset added electricity costs

**A hybrid system with a furnace backup can more readily be powered by a generator during an outage.*



WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK MY CONTRACTOR?

To make sure you get the right heat pump for your home, choose a contractor who takes the time to understand your needs and can confidently answer questions like these:

- ☐ Have your installers received manufacturer training to install these units?
- ☐ Are you an HRAI registered Heat Pump Champion Advocate?
- ☐ Do you use heating load calculations to size the system?
- ☐ Will you assess my ductwork and air flow to size the system?
- ☐ Will my home need electrical or other upgrades?
- ☐ Where will the equipment be installed?
- ☐ What is the total installed cost, and will I be eligible for any incentives?
- ☐ For hybrid heat pumps, at what temperature will the system switch to backup heat?
- ☐ Will you show me how to maintain the system and program the thermostat?
- ☐ Tell me about your warranties, qualifications, experience and references.

✓ **Tip: It's a good idea to compare quotes from a few qualified installers to find the best fit for your home.**



Look for an HRAI Heat Pump Champion Advocate - contractors with certified training and proven experience to help you choose and install the right system. Visit the [HRAI Contractor Locator website](#) to check.



Learn More

Canada's Home Electrification Toolkit can help you electrify all aspects of your home, and avoid an electrical panel upgrade.

Presented by:

The Building Decarbonization Alliance is a non-partisan and cross-sector coalition working towards a future where electrified buildings are part of an affordable and resilient energy system that contributes to a prosperous, sustainable, and decarbonized Canada. buildingdecarbonization.ca

Plumbing+HVAC Magazine is Canada's largest and most qualified circulation to the mechanical trades with more than 25,000 readers. plumbingandhvac.ca

Founded in 1968, the **Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI)** is a non-profit national trade association that represents more than 1,150 member companies in the heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) industry.

