

Comparing Quotes: Ground Source Heat Pumps

Ground source, or geothermal heat pumps use heat deep within the earth or a large body of water to heat your home. By supplying heat in the winter and cooling in the summer, a ground source heat pump can give you year-round climate control for your home, while reducing your energy costs.

If you already have an oil, propane or electric heating system, installing a heat pump is an effective way to reduce your energy costs. Some types can also provide supplementary hot water heating.

How to use this form

Once you have received some quotes from your contractors, complete the relevant table below to compare your quotes. Fill in as much information as is available on your quotes. This will help you make your decision. If you need help comparing your quotes contact us at **1 877 999 6035**; we are here to help. Before you call, write down both the inside and outside model numbers for all equipment so we can best assist you.

	Quote A	Quote B	Quote C
Closed Loop¹ or Open Loop²			
Heating Capacity (Btu)³ When comparing your quotes, the sizes that you have been quoted should be fairly similar (within 12,000 Btu of each other). If not, ask the contractor to explain the difference.			
Cooling Capacity (Btu)			
COPh (Coefficient of Performance - heat)⁴			
EER (Energy Efficiency Ratio)⁵			
ENERGY STAR[®] Qualified Purchasing a heat pump that is not ENERGY STAR [®] qualified is not recommended. ENERGY STAR [®] qualified products meet strict technical specifications for energy performance—tested and certified.			
Total Estimated Cost (\$)⁶			
Manufacturer Warranty Most manufacturers have low efficiency and high efficiency models, however warranties vary between manufacturers.	Warranty: years	Warranty: years	Warranty: years
Model Number			

Additional Information

1. **Closed Loop** – A ground heat exchange method in which the heat transfer fluid (such as glycol) is permanently contained in a closed piping system.
2. **Open Loop** – A ground heat exchange method in which the heat transfer fluid is part of an existing body of water. The most common open loop systems use ground water, reclaimed water, or surface water as the heat transfer medium.
3. **Sizing** is the most important factor when choosing a heat pump. The most accurate way to size a heat pump is through a process called “heat load analysis”. This analysis takes into consideration the size of the home and each room, the size and placement of each window, the air flow between rooms and floors, etc. and requires the use of a custom computer program. Some contractors may provide a quote based simply on the square footage of the home, which can result in performance and efficiency problems. We recommend that a full heat load analysis be done to ensure the unit will perform properly and efficiently.
4. The heating function is measured by a **Coefficient of Performance (COP)**. The higher the COP, the more efficient the heat pump will be at heating your home. ENERGY STAR® qualified ground source heat pumps must meet or exceed a COPh of 3.3 for a closed loop system and 3.6 for an open loop system.
5. The cooling function of a heat pump is measured by an **Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER)**. The higher the EER, the more efficient the heat pump will be at cooling your house. ENERGY STAR® qualified ground source heat pumps must meet or exceed an EER of 14.1 for a closed loop system and 16.2 for an open loop system.
6. It is important to consider all the **cost and benefits** before purchasing a heat pump. While fuel costs may be lower for heat pumps than for conventional heating systems, they are more expensive to buy, and they may require new ducting as well. You should also consider how much servicing might be required, and at what cost.