

Consumers Digest

OCTOBER 2008



Best Buys in Heat Pumps

Best Buy Categories:

[P]=Premium selection;

[M]=Midrange selection;

[E]=Economy selection.

Best Buys in heat pumps were based on ease of use, ease of maintenance, efficiency, and manufacturer's reputation for quality and reliability.

Peak efficiency is rated in SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio) for cooling efficiency and HSPF (heating seasonal performance factor) for heating efficiency.

The ratings are taken from Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute. Input is measured in tons.

All Best Buys use R-410A refrigerant.

All Best Buys are for a series of units, thus a range in prices and inputs.

Most list prices are based on input from contractors, distributors and installer price books. Manufacturers typically do not disclose prices. Prices do not include installation costs.



Carrier Infinity

Heat Pumps

[P] Carrier Infinity

The Infinity is simply the best heat pump on the market. It has the highest overall efficiency of any unit. We couldn't find a whole-house (central) heat pump with a higher SEER rating, and its HSPF rating is among the industry leaders. Plus, Carrier's reputation for high quality is well-deserved with this model.

Features:

- * Peak efficiency: 19 SEER / 9.2 HSPF
- * Input: 2 to 5 tons
- * Warranty: 10-yr. limited compressor; 5-yr. limited parts

[M] Heil Quiet-Comfort DXT+

The QuietComfort DXT+ is the most efficient heat pump we found in this price range. Its two-stage operation, typical of more expensive heat pumps, makes for quiet operation that reduces energy consumption by running at lower speeds except at peak outdoor temperatures.

Features:

- * Peak efficiency: 17 SEER / 9.3 HSPF
- * Input: 1.5 to 5 tons
- * Warranty: 10-yr. limited compressor, coil; 7-yr. limited parts

[E] Goodman GSZ13

The proven GSZ13 delivers quiet efficiency at a price that's hard to beat. It comes with one of the best warranties of any heat pump at any price.

Features:

- * Peak efficiency: 14 SEER / 8.6 HSPF
- * Input: 1.5 to 5 tons
- * Warranty: 10-yr. limited compressor, parts