

New AC Buying Cheatsheet

Your quick-reference guide to choosing the right system

Bring this checklist with you when comparing systems, meeting with Pros, or reviewing quotes.

Should you repair or replace?

- My AC is 15+ years old
- I've had frequent repairs in the past 1-2 years
- My repair cost × unit age exceeds \$5,000
- My energy bills have increased without explanation
- My system uses older refrigerant (R-22 or R-410A)
- I notice uneven cooling or weak airflow

If you checked multiple boxes, replacement may be the smarter long-term investment.

What type of system fits my home?

- Portable unit
- Window unit
- Central air (split or packaged system)
- Ductless mini-split
- Geothermal

Why this option fits my home: _____

What size system does my home need?

Home square footage: _____

Estimated BTUs (sq ft × 20): _____

Estimated tonnage (BTUs ÷ 12,000): _____

- I confirmed sizing with a licensed HVAC professional
- My insulation, ceiling height, and sun exposure were considered

Budget breakdown

Estimated equipment cost: _____

Estimated labor/installation cost: _____

Ductwork modifications (if needed): _____

Additional equipment (furnace, upgrades, etc.):

Total estimated investment: _____

Features that matter to me

- Programmable timer
- Wi-Fi / smartphone control
- Quiet operation
- Air purification
- Dehumidification
- High SEER2 rating
- Zoned temperature control

Top 3 priorities:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Ongoing maintenance checklist

- Replace or clean air filters regularly
- Inspect and clean evaporator and condenser coils
- Straighten bent coil fins (if needed)