

SEER Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is a "ton" of air conditioning?

A. The air conditioning term "ton" equates to 12,000 BTUH (British Thermal Units per Hour). A 3 ton air conditioner is capable of removing a combined sensible and latent (humidity) load of 36,000 BTUH per hour (3 x 12,000)

Q. Will a 14 SEER unit cool better than a 13 SEER unit?

A. The capacity or size of an air conditioner should not be confused with the efficiency rating. New units of like capacity cool equally as well regardless of efficiency rating. However, the unit with the higher efficiency rating uses less electricity.

Q. My old unit has not performed well the last couple of years. Do I need a bigger unit?

.A. Air conditioning units are like automobiles. They don't get the same gas mileage after 15 or 20 years of use. The majority of people who replace their air conditioning units with the same capacity unit experience a noticeable difference in comfort levels due to the fact the system is new and providing the full capacity for which it was designed. Unless changes have occurred in your home such as a room addition, the addition of skylights, etc., upsizing is rarely necessary. Occasionally air conditioners can be downsized if additional insulation or storm windows have been added. It's always best to have a professional make an on-site visit to determine the exact requirements of your home.

Q. How do I know how much air conditioning I need?

Be careful using any rule of thumb method to determine the capacity requirement for your home. Under-sized equipment obviously will not keep your home comfortable during peak cooling demand times, and over-sized equipment could be more expensive to operate and cause problems of high humidity. A professional dealer or contractor has the knowledge to properly calculate the size unit needed for your home, and should be consulted.

