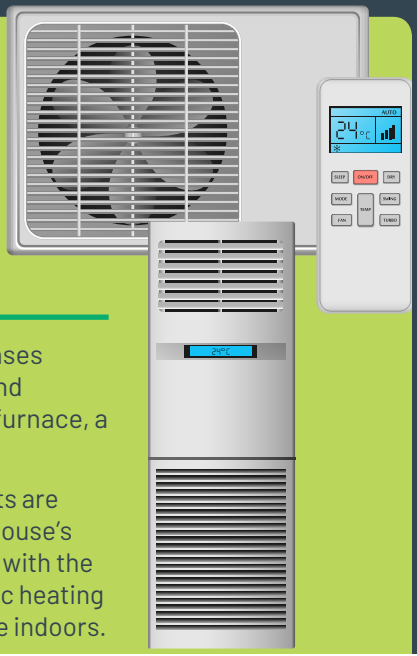
BetterHomesTO

AIR CONDITIONER (CENTRAL)



A central air conditioner evaporates a liquid refrigerant to absorb heat from your home. The system then compresses the refrigerant and condenses it from a vapor to a liquid, releasing the heat so that the cooled/liquid refrigerant can be expanded and sent back into the home, where it starts the cycle again.

There are two types of central air conditioning systems to choose from, split systems or packaged systems.

Split systems – have an outdoor cabinet which compresses and condenses the refrigerant, releasing heat outdoors. The indoor cabinet expands and evaporates the refrigerant, absorbing heat. If your home already has a furnace, a split-system is the most economical central air conditioner to install.

Packaged central air conditioning system – in which all of the components are located in one cabinet; usually placed on a roof or on a slab next to your house's foundation. Ducts go through the home's exterior wall or roof to connect with the air conditioner outdoors. Packaged air conditioners often include electric heating coils or a natural gas furnace, eliminating the need for a separate furnace indoors.

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WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

- Select a unit with a high Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER).
- ENERGY STAR certified high-efficiency central air conditioners use 8 per cent less energy, on average, than standard models.
- Make sure it's the right size for your home. If it's too small it won't cool your home. If it's too large, it will cycle on and off frequently - wasting energy and inflating your utility bill.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Consider using ceiling fans or heat pumps, which use less energy, to keep your home comfortable.
- If your home already has a furnace, a split-system is the most economical choice.
- Clean filters, coils and ductwork regularly to improve efficiency. Consult your owner's manual for detailed instructions.
- Set the temperature between 22-26°C. Aim for comfort, not cold.
- Consider financing your air conditioner and other home energy improvements through the City of Toronto's Home Energy Loan Program (HELP).
- Consider getting an EnerGuide Energy Efficiency Home Evaluation to help you understand how your home uses energy and identify all improvement opportunities.
- Check with your municipality, utility or retailer to see if rebates are available.

COST:

$2,400 - $10,000

BetterHomesTO: Tips, tools & resources to improve the energy efficiency of your home. **BetterHomesTO.ca**