

ADVICE ON CHOOSING A HEAT PUMP

1. Contractor selection: if you need help identifying, selecting or reviewing a heat pump contractor, [reach out to PGE](#) for help.
 - Ask the contractor how many heat pump systems they install per week and the typical system they install. (The best contractors in urban areas should be installing five or more heat pump systems per week).
 - Ask the contractor about their process for ensuring the heat pump system is operating efficiently after it has been installed.
2. Pricing: you might need more than three contractor bids to get an accurate understanding of pricing.
3. Heat pump sizing and selection: make sure the contractor goes into your attic and crawl space to see how much insulation you have (this will inform the contractor about the heat pump's size). If you add insulation, you may be able to install a smaller heat pump (and be sure to explore [insulation incentives](#) available through Energy Trust of Oregon.)
 - Make sure the contractor does a heat loss/cooling gain load calculation and is willing to show it to you. (If you are not sure about what the contractor is showing you, reach out to [PGE for a review.](#))
 - Make sure you consider a cold climate heat pump without backup heat (many perform well at temperatures below 0 degrees Fahrenheit)
 - Always get a heat pump instead of a central air conditioner, even if you plan to keep your gas furnace (you can keep your gas furnace as a back-up, if needed, but getting a heat pump instead of an air conditioner will help avoid you getting locked into getting another gas furnace when it fails).
4. Operating the heat pump: make sure the contractor sets the temperature for when backup heat kicks in at no higher than 35 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - For temperature setting, it's most economical to "set it and forget it" in the winter. Heat pumps operate most efficiently when holding a steady temperature.
 - Don't forget to install a smart thermostat and enroll in [PGE's Smart Thermostat Program](#) to save up to \$50 per year. Or consider signing up for [PGE programs](#) that reward you for avoiding energy use at peak times.
5. Financial support: your new system may qualify for a Federal tax credit or upfront discount, or a [heat pump incentive](#) from the Energy Trust of Oregon.
6. More information on [operating and maintaining your heat pump](#) is available from the U.S. Department of Energy.

