



Certain telltale signs indicate it's time to consider replacing heating and cooling equipment, or improving the performance of your overall system. It may be time to call a professional contractor to help you make a change if:

- **Your heat pump or air conditioner is more than 10 years old.** Consider replacing with ENERGY STAR qualified equipment that uses 20 percent less energy than new standard models.
- **Your furnace or boiler is more than 15 years old.** Consider replacing with an ENERGY STAR qualified furnace, which is 15% more efficient than a conventional furnace. If you have a boiler, consider replacing with an ENERGY STAR qualified boiler that is 10% more efficient than a new, standard model.
- **Your equipment needs frequent repairs and your energy bills are going up.** Your cooling or heating equipment may have become less efficient.
- **Some rooms in your home are too hot or too cold.** Improper equipment operation, duct problems or inadequate insulation could be the cause.
- **No one is home for long periods of the day and you do not have a programmable thermostat.** Install an ENERGY STAR qualified programmable thermostat or have a good contractor install one and instruct you on its use--to start saving energy and money while they're away or sleeping.
- **Your home has humidity problems.** Poor equipment operation, inadequate equipment, and leaky ductwork can cause the air to be too dry in the winter or too humid in the summer.
- **Your home has excessive dust.** Leaky ducts can pull particles and air from attics, crawl spaces and basements and distribute them throughout your house. Sealing your ducts may be a solution.
- **Your heating or cooling system is noisy.** You could have an undersized duct system or a problem with the indoor coil of your cooling equipment.
- **Your score on the [Home Energy Yardstick](#) is below five.** That means your energy use at home is above average and you're probably paying more than you need to on energy bills.