

How to Choose an HVAC Contractor

Choosing a new heating and cooling system is a big decision, one that is made only a few times in your life. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that nearly half of all home HVAC systems are not operating as advertised due to improper installation and poor maintenance.

A good contractor should be able to educate you and provide data about your home's system performance so you can feel informed and confident when choosing new HVAC equipment. A professional who can provide you with performance testing looks at your heating, cooling and ventilation equipment as a whole and how it interacts with your unique home.

When looking for an HVAC contractor to install new equipment or service existing equipment, there are a few services that set performance-testing contractors apart from their peers.



Accuracy: Performs load calculations and determines the right-sized equipment for your home



Assessment: Tests the operating performance and verifies results and fixes any deficiencies



Filters: Shows you the correct filter for your system and instructs you on how to replace it



Maintenance: Offers a service agreement to test and tune your system every 6 months



Satisfaction: Provides testimonials from previous customers who are satisfied with their work



Get estimates from multiple contractors. Don't let the lowest price be the deciding factor. Better contractors may charge more, but they offer greater value and premium services.



A good company will give you a written bid (or proposal) outlining the equipment to be installed, the work to be done and the price, including labor costs.



Do not give your business to a company offering an estimate over the phone without looking at the job to be done. Be skeptical of low bids, they may not be including all services and warranties.

How HVAC SAVE Can Help

The HVAC SAVE program trains HVAC professionals on performance testing of heating and cooling equipment. An HVAC SAVE test verifies operating performance, which will help you save energy and stop wasting money.

An HVAC SAVE certified contractor will be able to:

- ✓ Test and verify your equipment's performance
- ✓ Provide you with a diagnostic report detailing what needs to be fixed and how to fix it
- ✓ Provide you with an HVAC SAVE rating on your heating or cooling system's overall performance

Choosing an HVAC SAVE certified contractor ensures a high quality installation and you can have peace of mind that your system is operating as intended.

The HVAC SAVE program has been supported by many utilities in Iowa since 2010. Exclusive rebates may be available for homeowners in Iowa who choose an HVAC SAVE certified contractor.

To find an HVAC SAVE certified professional in your area, visit www.hvacsave.com

For more information, email hvacsave@mwalliance.org

