

Protecting Our Environment

Choosing An AC System That Benefits The Environment

(NAPS)—There are many factors to consider when replacing or installing an air-conditioning or heat pump system and one of them is the environment. Besides comfort issues, such as cold spots, drafts, humidity and air quality, the air conditioner should also be environmentally friendly.

According to the Clean Air Act, by the year 2010, heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) manufacturers can no longer produce new air conditioners and heat pumps that use R-22 refrigerant, a hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) that contributes to ozone depletion.

Since R-410A will likely become the new refrigerant standard to replace R-22, HVAC manufacturers are already starting to produce air-conditioning equipment that uses this refrigerant.

However, refrigerant substitutes, such as R-410A, can not be used in an air conditioner that currently operates with R-22 refrigerant, unless a contractor makes some changes to the HVAC system.

New cooling systems, on the other hand, incorporate compressors and other components specifically designed for use with environmentally friendly replacement refrigerants, such as R-410A.

Another point for homeowners to keep in mind is that the HVAC contractor they select should be properly trained in the installation and service techniques required for the use of substitute refrigerants, like R-410A.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), homeowners should select a reputable contractor that employs



Make sure the HVAC contractor that you select is certified and knows about the latest environmentally friendly regulations concerning air conditioners.

service technicians who are EPA- and NATE-certified to handle refrigerants. Properly installed AC systems rarely develop refrigerant leaks, and with proper servicing, a system using refrigerant will have a minimal impact on the environment.

Energy Efficient Equipment

Another important thing homeowners can do for the environment and their wallets is to purchase an energy-efficient system. HVAC manufacturers, such as Johnson Controls, offer several types of energy-efficient air conditioners. For example, the York® Affinity™ 15+ SEER air conditioner uses innovative scroll compressor technology that features a two-stage design, making it as much as 60 percent more efficient than traditional air-conditioning units.

To learn more about energy efficient and environmentally responsible air-conditioning systems, call (877) 874-7378 or visit www.yorkupg.com/affinity.