



## Space Heating and Cooling

Since most people use gas furnaces to heat their homes, space heating is one of the largest generators of air pollution in California. Heat pumps fundamentally work in a different and more efficient way. Instead of burning fuel, heat pumps use a refrigerant to move heat from one place to another, similar to your refrigerator.

**Air-source heat pumps pull heat from the air outside (even when it's cold) to heat your house. As a result, modern electric heat pumps can be up to [four times more efficient](#) at warming your home than even the most efficient gas furnaces.**

One of the most important benefits of heat pumps is that they double as air conditioners, allowing homeowners to replace both units when they upgrade. That means you can replace two appliances with one ultra-efficient unit. Additionally, as gas furnaces cycle on and off, heat pumps provide a more consistent temperature and can offer more control with zoned heating.

In California, new incentives can even make high-performance heat pumps cheaper to install than an inefficient gas replacement.

## Different Types of Heat Pumps

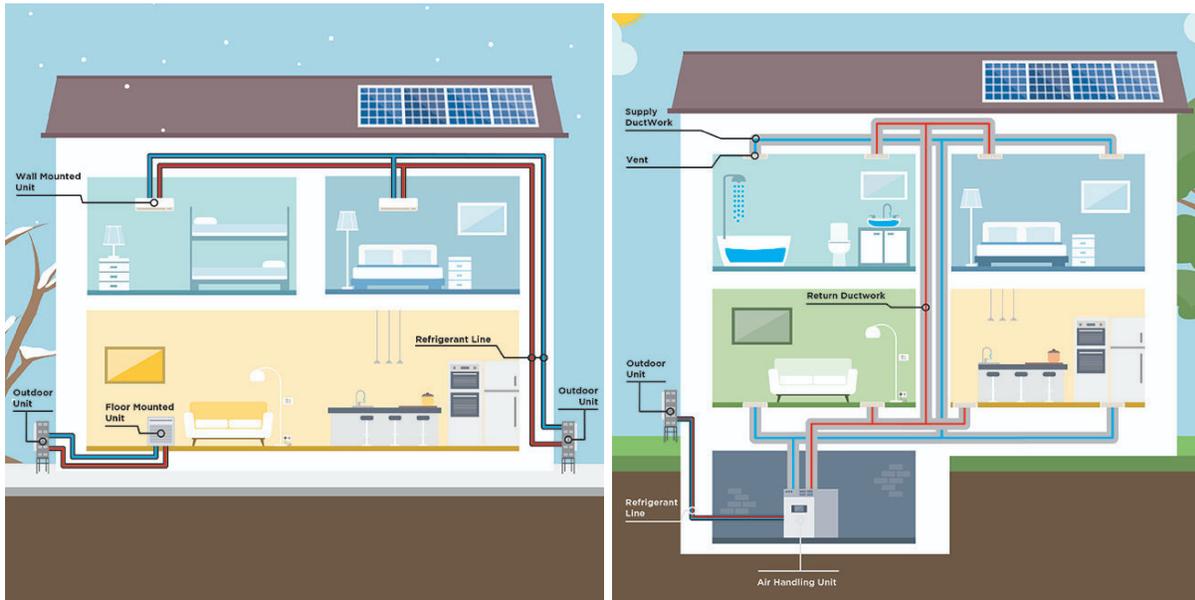
Since there are several different types of heat pumps available, understanding your current HVAC system will help you choose the best option for your home.

- **Central heat pumps** are installed in a single location and deliver the conditioned air through floor or ceiling grates.
- If your home uses a single heating or cooling source, like a floor furnace or window air conditioner, **a ductless heat pump** (also known as a mini-split) system might be the better solution for you.

For more information, check out [this great consumer guide](#) for buying heat pumps from our friends at the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center.



**THE SWITCH IS ON**



## Be Ready to Make the Switch

The average furnace has a lifespan of 16-20 years. If you wait until your gas furnace breaks, you'll be tempted to replace it with a similar model. Learn what your options are now so you can make the best decision when the time comes.

Ready now? [Find a contractor](#) and explore eligibility for [incentives](#).

Your utility bills can be further reduced by pairing your heat pump hot water heater with home solar, which allows you to generate your own clean energy that can power your appliances. [Speak to an expert](#) about getting solar panels.

By adding a home battery, you can store the power you generate from your solar panel and use it for space heating and cooling during times of high electricity rates. The battery can also act as a backup power source during outages or emergencies. [Speak to an expert](#) about installing a home battery.

## Additional Resources

[Heat Pumps at Lowe's](#)

[Condensers at HVAC Direct](#)

[Mini-splits at Home Depot](#)

[Air-Source Heat Pumps Buying Guide](#)

[Know Your Heat Pumps](#)

[Heat Pump Space Heater: How it Works](#)