

SEK Heat & Air's HVAC Q&A

By Chris Cotter, General Manager – Adapted from articles published in the SEK Q&A Times

Question:

In building a new home, what should be considered in HVAC?

Although the new home will be sufficient for our needs for some time, should we consider a larger system just to be sure it will cover future needs?

Answer:

HVAC systems should be specially configured to fit the specifications of each home. This includes square footage, climate, elevation, and home design. This is important for not only the life of the system, but how the system operates, the expense of the system, and the comfort it provides you. It is important to have a licensed HVAC contractor, consultant, or engineer specify what is ideal for your home.

Building a new home gives the home owner an opportunity to take advantage of leading technology and design innovations in HVAC. Geothermal systems are more efficient, affordable, and effective than ever before ó maybe now is the time to abandon conventional systems that rely on non-renewable energy. Ductless mini-splits (multi-zone systems) allow homeowners to independently control the temperature in any room in the house, offering higher efficiency and comfort than other traditional systems. Or, if you have an accessible body of water near your home, perhaps a water-source heat pump would be the best option for your home. Talking with an experienced, knowledgeable HVAC contractor, is always a good way to learn about new trends and technology that can save money and energy and make your home a more comfortable place to live.

It may seem like a good idea to plan ahead and get a system to meet the needs of a possible addition somewhere down the road. However, you should avoid over-sizing at all costs. Over-sizing equipment increases the cost at the time of the installation as well as the cost of operation. More importantly, it means the unit will not have to run as long to achieve the home's temperature settings, leading to higher humidity. This means discomfort for the homeowner and the possibility of mold growth in the future.