

## How a Product Qualifies for the ENERGY STAR Label

ENERGY STAR is the label created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to help consumers identify products that save energy. These products help save money on utility bills while preventing air pollution. Manufacturers or retailers can volunteer to place the ENERGY STAR label on those models that meet or exceed the energy-efficiency criteria set by EPA and DOE. They can also use the label in their advertising. Today, most leading manufacturers of home heating and cooling equipment are producing high-efficiency systems that qualify for the ENERGY STAR label.

## How Do I Learn More



To help you find out more about ENERGY STAR labeled heating and cooling equipment, EPA offers additional information on the technologies, a list of product models that have earned the label, and a consumer's guide to purchasing high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment.

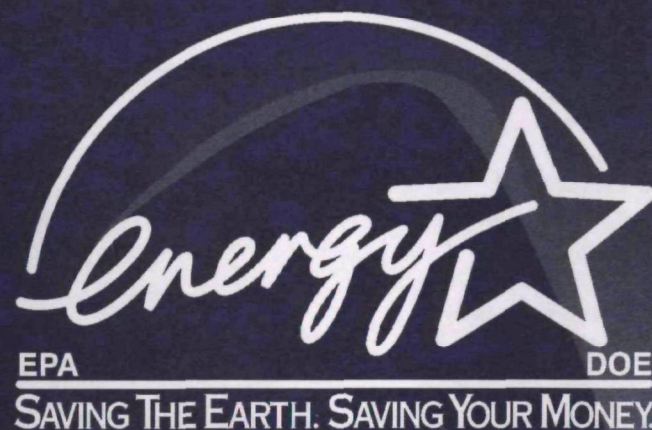
The toll-free ENERGY STAR Hotline at 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937) also has information on other products for your home and office that carry the ENERGY STAR label, including office equipment, light fixtures, and home appliances.

ENERGY STAR is a program of:

**U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency**

**U.S. Department of Energy**

## Heating and Cooling Your Home: Saving with ENERGY STAR®



## Why Buy ENERGY STAR® Heating and Cooling Equipment?

### **It's a good investment.**

Although ENERGY STAR heating and cooling products initially cost more than standard systems, owners of the equipment realize "returns" in the form of lower utility bills. The higher up-front cost of ENERGY STAR products is really an investment – one that can yield annual returns of 15 to 40 percent. These returns are greater than you are likely to realize on other investments such as CDs, bonds, or mutual funds.

### **To increase the resale value of your home.**

Investing in energy-efficient systems can add value to your home on the market. Prospective buyers pay attention to utility bills, and they are willing to pay more for a home that costs less to operate.

### **To reduce air pollution.**

Heating and cooling most homes involves the burning of fossil fuels. When these fuels are burned, whether in utility power plants or in the home system, they create gases such as carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides.

Carbon dioxide contributes to global climate change. In fact, the average home is responsible for more carbon dioxide emissions than the average car.

When you use less energy, you create less air pollution, which helps save the earth and your money.

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

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ENERGY STAR is a registered mark





## Commonly Asked Questions

### How do I know when it's time to replace my heating or cooling system?

If your equipment is broken, of course, the time is now. But most people don't realize that many systems have a lifetime of 12 years or less. As your equipment gets older, its efficiency can decrease dramatically. You may also notice that it gets noisier and needs repairs more often. If your system is over five years old, you should have a heating and cooling contractor check your system for maintenance or replacement. And, by taking action now, you'll have more time to make an informed choice and to arrange for special financing.

### Once I've decided to replace my old equipment, what kind do I choose?

Work with your contractor to determine the best technology for your home. Once you've decided on the equipment type (a heat pump or furnace, for example), investigate whether ENERGY STAR would be a good investment for you.

### Will these ENERGY STAR products reduce the comfort level in my home?

No. ENERGY STAR products function in the same manner as your existing products, but do so while consuming less energy. Some ENERGY STAR products may actually improve the comfort level of your home by maintaining a constant temperature evenly throughout the day.

# The ENERGY STAR® Label is on Residential Heating and Cooling Equipment

You may have seen the ENERGY STAR® label on appliances or computers, but didn't realize what it meant. The ENERGY STAR stands for high efficiency and energy savings. The ENERGY STAR label is also on home heating and cooling equipment. ENERGY STAR heating and cooling products have the same features as standard products, but they also have additional energy-saving components or technology. They offer some of the largest savings to consumers of all the ENERGY STAR products. Remember to look for the ENERGY STAR label — the symbol for energy efficiency.

These are the minimum efficiency levels for ENERGY STAR equipment. Refer to this chart when you are considering buying heating and cooling equipment for your home.



Air-Source Heat Pumps

7 HSPF  
12 SEER  
(or higher)



Gas-Fired Heat Pumps

1.2 COP (H)  
1.25 COP (C)  
(or higher)



Geothermal Heat Pumps

2.8 COP (H)  
13 EER  
(or higher)

Boilers  
(oil or gas)

85 AFUE  
(or higher)



Programmable Thermostats

2 programs  
4 temp. settings each



Central Air Conditioning

12 SEER  
(or higher)



Furnaces (oil or gas)

90 AFUE  
(or higher)



Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE), Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF), and Coefficient of Performance (COP) (H) are measures of heating efficiency. Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER), Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER), and COP (C) are measures of cooling efficiency. The higher the efficiency level for any particular product, the more energy it will save.

## Commonly Asked Questions

### Does a model that qualifies for the ENERGY STAR label cost more than standard efficiency equipment?

Yes. But spending money on a new ENERGY STAR system can be one of the best investments you make. To see this, consider the "second price tag" of a product, namely the cost of the energy needed to run the equipment. Every year, you will save hundreds of dollars more on your energy bills with ENERGY STAR than if you buy standard equipment. Think of these savings — which will be additional dollars in your pocket — as a return on the investment you have made in your new energy-efficient system. For example, investing \$1,100 in an ENERGY STAR furnace and central air conditioning system instead of a standard one could yield a return of 15 percent. Your returns could be greater, depending on the type of equipment you purchase and the area of the country in which you live.

### How can I afford to buy ENERGY STAR if I don't have the extra cash right now?

It's easy! There is special ENERGY STAR financing available for ENERGY STAR equipment, with lower interest rates and longer terms than most conventional financing offered by heating and cooling contractors. Call the ENERGY STAR Hotline listed on the back of this brochure; they can tell you where to call to apply for ENERGY STAR financing.

### Will these ENERGY STAR products require more maintenance?

No. They should receive the same preventive maintenance as standard efficiency equipment.