

Facts About Efficient Heat Pumps

A heat pump is the most efficient way to heat and cool your home. You can save up to 40 percent on your electric bill to heat your home in the winter. Because of the way a heat pump works, you will stay comfortable year-round.

During the winter, a fan pulls air over the outdoor coil, which extracts heat from the outside air. Even though it may be cold outside, the air holds a lot of heat. The compressor pressurizes the gas in the coil, raising the temperature even warmer. The heated gas moves inside your home to the indoor coil.

A circulating fan blows air across the indoor coil, through heating ducts, and into your home.

In the summer the heat pump works in reverse, as an air conditioner. Refrigerant absorbs heat from room air blown across the indoor coil removing heat and humidity from the air, and cool dry

air is distributed throughout your home.

Setting your Thermostat

When the outdoor temperature drops below 32 degrees your heat pump may need the electric back-up heat. There should be an indicator light to show this. It will be labeled as emergency or auxiliary on your thermostat. The indicator may also indicate a problem with your heat pump, such as a clogged air filter.

When setting your thermostat, you should program it to the lowest comfortable temperature to conserve energy and save money. Frequent and drastic changes to your thermostat may cause you to use more energy. To avoid this, reset the thermostat one degree at a time.

In the summer, you should aim for the highest comfortable temperature when selecting your setting.

Maintenance

Like any other machine, your heat pump will perform best if it is properly maintained.

- Clean or replace the air filter monthly.
- Check and clean indoor coils.
- Check and clean the condensate pan, drain and trap.
- If you notice a change in the sound your system makes, have your heat pump checked.
- Do not block air registers with furniture or boxes.
- Keep area clean around outdoor section of the heat pump.

If you plan to buy a heat pump, call Klickitat PUD for information on our rebate program and specifications before you have one installed. Ask our Energy Services Department about our low 4.9-percent interest loans for qualifying conservation measures. Call (800) 548-8357 ext. 622, or (509) 773-7622. ■

