



## **Why choose a heat pump?**

Heat pumps have gained recognition as the most efficient way to heat and cool your home. The mild Hill Country climate is perfect for air-to-air system heat pumps.

## **How does a heat pump work?**

Heat pumps work essentially like other air conditioning units. Freon is moved through coils by a compressor. The Freon removes heat from the air, and fans blow the hot air outside, thereby cooling your home in the summer. What makes a heat pump different is the “reverse valve”, which basically reverses this process to heat your home in the winter. The refrigerant removes the heat from the air outside and the same fans blow the warm air into your home.

In the winter, the coils will freeze and then go through a defrosting cycle. During this cycle, steam will rise from the unit, which may be alarming to some people. However, this is a natural and necessary cycle for the heat pump.

## **Requirements**

Heat pumps work best in well-insulated, well-sealed homes. Ducts must be strategically placed to collect cool air in the winter and hot air in the summer. Homes with high ceilings may require additional vents to ensure proper circulation of air.

## **Disadvantages**

Heat pumps do not distribute “hot” heat. A gas burning unit or electric furnace may produce air as hot as 150° F. Heat pumps blow air between 100° F - 120° F. Blower placement is important to ensure that this cooler air is not blown directly onto you.

## **Suggestions for operating your heat pump**

Find a comfortable setting, and leave it alone. Recommended settings are 68° F in the winter and 78° F in the summer. Heat pumps do not recover well when the thermostat is adjusted. If the thermostat is adjusted too frequently in the winter, auxiliary heat may be activated, which will negate the efficiency of the unit.

Change your filters regularly, and use filters with a MERV rating of 6 or greater. Performing basic maintenance will help your unit run at its optimum capacity.