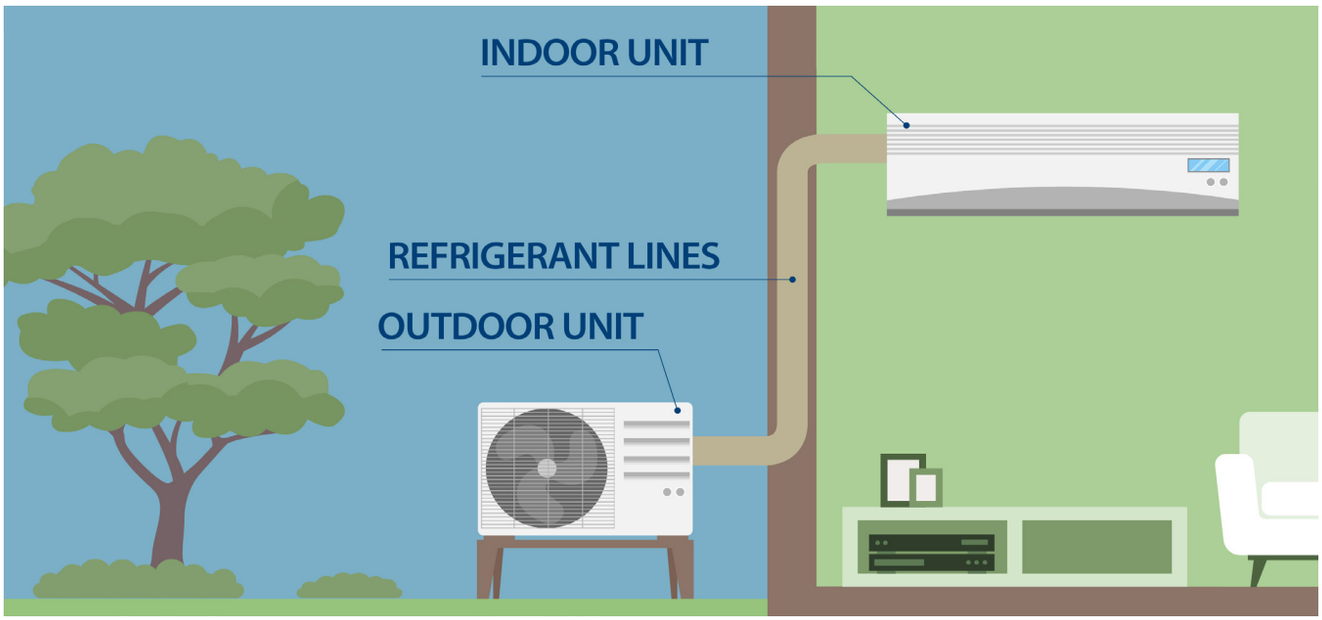
MI

HEAT PUMP COLLABORATIVE

How will the heat pump impact my home heating?

During the heating season, a heat pump extracts heat from the outside air and transfers it indoors to warm the home. It operates efficiently by moving existing heat rather than generating it, resulting in lower energy consumption compared to traditional heating systems. This leads to consistent, energy-efficient heating, reducing energy bills while maintaining indoor comfort, even in cooler weather. However, in extremely cold temperatures, the heat pump may become less efficient, sometimes requiring a supplementary heating source such as a fossil fuel furnace or electric heat kit.



How do I operate it?

Operating the thermostat on a heat pump is straightforward, but it's essential to use the right settings for optimal performance. Heat pumps work best when they maintain a steady temperature. Constantly adjusting the temperature can reduce efficiency. Instead, choose a comfortable temperature and let the system maintain it. Your heat pump thermostat will have a combination of modes that say "Heat " and "Cool". The "Cool" setting will allow for the heat pump to operate as an air conditioner, cooling the space to the desired indoor temperature setpoint. Selecting "Heat" mode will utilize the heat pump in its heating mode, which will activate the outdoor unit just like it would in cooling mode but will utilize it for heating the space instead. When a ductless system is paired with a different system existing in the home, such as a boiler, the thermostat during heating season should be set to overcome the "Droop" in temperature. Doing this would put the brunt of the heating load on the ductless system until it can no longer provide adequate heating to the home. When the backup system is set 2-4°F lower than the ductless system, this will activate the heating need for the home and help overcome the loss of capacity from the ductless system when it cannot keep up with the extreme outdoor temperature.

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What do I do if I have concerns?

One thing to note is a heat pump air delivery temperature may be lower than what you have experienced before with different systems. A heat pump can offer supply air delivery temperatures lower than your body temperature. **This does not mean the heat pump is not working.** This is expected operation, and you will find that you may not have to increase the setpoint on the thermostat in the winter higher than you do in the summer with the new system because it retains a proper amount of moisture in the air, leading to a less dry and negative indoor air quality environment.

New noises will be experienced with your heat pump. When the system goes into defrost mode, the outdoor unit will cease fan operation momentarily, and you may hear a "whooshing" sound. At the end of this cycle when the fan starts to operate again, you will notice what resembles steam coming out of the unit. This amount could be large or small, depending on the air temperature and humidity. **This is completely normal operation of the unit.** You should find no increase in your utility bill as well, and in some cases a decrease in your utility bill. If the system does not seem to be keeping up with a normal set temperature, your bills increase drastically, there are error indicators on the display of the indoor head, or there are strange noises coming from the unit that seem alarming, you should call your contractor or building maintenance to address these concerns.