

Learn how to find a licensed contractor to properly install your Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system.



PROPER INSTALLATION

Proper installation of a heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system is crucial to having it perform well and operate cost efficiently.

Improper HVAC installation can reduce the efficiency and capacity of your heating system – using more natural gas and making your system work harder than it should.

Common installation problems include:

- Improper system sizing
- Improper air flow
- Duct leakage

SELECTING A CONTRACTOR

To increase the likelihood that your system will be properly installed and will work efficiently, quietly and safely, make sure to hire a licensed contractor who obtains the required building permit and has knowledge of, and complies with, local codes, ordinances and the requirements of the Building Energy-Efficiency Standards (State Administrative Code, Title 24, Part 6).

Licensed contractors generally meet these standards:

- Have a minimum of four full years of experience performing the trade
- Have taken and passed a law and trade exam
- Are required to have a contractors' bond
- Have been the subject of a background check
- Are regulated by the Contractors State License Board

Installers who perform contracting work without a license have avoided these quality assurance requirements and may be in violation of the law.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

A building permit issued by the City of Long Beach Development Services may be required for HVAC installations and modifications including, but not limited to, the following:

- New HVAC installation
- HVAC change out/remodel/replacement including the air handler, coil, furnace or condenser
- Relocation of an existing HVAC unit
- Removal of an HVAC unit or system
- Adding ducting

A Building Inspector may perform a quality assurance check to ensure that:

- The system is installed to comply with all applicable state and county or city codes
- The work specified under the permit has been performed properly
- Required compliance documents have been submitted