

those problem rooms...too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter



Do any of these scenarios sound familiar? You have a room or two in your home that never quite cool down as much as the rest of the house. Your sunroom was added long after the home was built, and is not hooked into the central heating/cooling system. Perhaps that room is a finished attic or basement? You use electric baseboard for heat and have no ductwork in order to add air conditioning. In the

middle of the winter, you are forced to only occupy some rooms because the rest are too cold. All of these scenarios have one thing in common—your comfort is being compromised.

A possible solution to increase the comfort in your home is to add zoning to an existing ducted system, but for many years, the only solution to this issue was to put air conditioners in your windows

a practical solution is readily available

by **John Michel**
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or plug in space heaters in the problem areas. Both temporary solutions can leave the customer with noisy, awkward and inefficient systems. Luckily, these are no longer the only solutions. Mini-split systems, a popular solution in the commercial

FEATURE



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arena for years, have progressed to the point where they are now readily available for solving your pesky comfort issues at home.

Mini-split systems come in ducted or ductless



Indoor Unit

in several rooms. Ductless systems are now quite common and are perfect for those situations when the addition of ductwork is undesirable and there is no attic space available.

The advantages to installing a mini-split system are numerous. Each unit can be strategically placed to maximize the heating and cooling in the areas that need it most. Each unit also comes with its own wireless remote control, which controls the thermostat and allows you to only change the temperature in the areas you are using, thus saving energy. These systems are all-electric, so access to other fuel sources is not an issue. Since every home layout is different, the flexible configuration can be customized to your specific needs, maximizing comfort for the entire household.

Energy savings are more important than ever, and most systems are ENERGY STAR qualified. In fact, they are all more energy efficient than traditional heating & cooling systems. In addition to having complete control over which rooms are set to maximum comfort, the system's energy efficient technology allows you to reduce your energy consumption by 25% to 70%, saving you money on your energy costs without sacrificing comfort. These ducted or ductless systems do not have to replace your old gas, oil or electric

configurations and are a very efficient alternative for supplemental heating and cooling, such as space heaters and window air conditioners. Mini-split systems have two components, a small outdoor compressor and a very quiet indoor unit. The indoor units for ducted systems typically reside in the attic with ducting running to supplies

systems. The mini-splits can also act as back up for extremely hot or cold weather, or on the days when you only need to warm or cool a certain area of the house.

So how do you know if a mini-split system is right for you?

Consider your current heating and cooling system and take stock of your problem areas—rooms that are uncomfortable in the winter or summer. Mini-splits are great solutions for additions, areas where running ductwork would be difficult and supplementing rooms that aren't kept at a comfortable temperature by your current system. These ducted or ductless mini-split systems can reduce your energy usage which can also positively affect the amount of money you spend on heating and cooling your house year round.

If you are considering installing mini-splits as a whole home solution, make sure to schedule a Comfort Consultant to come in for a free evalua-



Outdoor Unit

tion of your home's layout to see if a traditional system may be more economical.

For more information on mini-splits and to find out how to schedule a consultation, visit www.HallerEnterprises.com.

R&A

Heating & Cooling Tips

Thermostats: During the heating and cooling seasons, find a temperature that is comfortable (we recommend a range of 68-72 for the heating season and 74-78 during the cooling season) and leave the thermostat set there. Continually adjusting the thermostat will decrease the efficiency of the heating and cooling system and therefore increase your energy costs. Another way to lower energy costs is to purchase a programmable thermostat. Setting the thermostat at a reduced temperature for long periods of time (at least eight hours, such as while you are at work) can significantly reduce your energy costs (up to 10%).



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