

CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

There are so many models to look at. Here are the key differences and what matters!

Efficiency Rating (SEER2)



Air Conditioners are rated in SEER2. The higher the SEER2 the less electricity it will use to cool your home. The lowest we can sell is 13.4 SEER2. Most customers find in Wisconsin that picking between 13.4 to 15.2 SEER2 a good sweet spot.

1-Stage, 2-Stage, Inverter



Air Conditioners are designed with either a single stage, two stage, or inverter compressor. The difference between these are all comfort. A two stage unit will dehumidify your house better than a single stage Air Conditioner. An inverter system is the best in efficiency, dehumidification, and comfort.

Single Stage: Turns on at 100% until thermostat tells it to turn off.

Two Stage: Turns on at around 50-60% for a certain number of minutes, if it cannot satisfy your thermostat, it will go to 100% until done. Thermostats can also force it to 100% right away if needed (if your thermostat is wired for two stages)

Inverter: The compressor can run in an essentially infinite range. The compressor will ramp up and down as needed to keep your house comfortable, all while trying to run for a longer time (removing even more humidity)

Noise Levels (Inverter Option)



Traditional Air Conditioners can be loud compared to the new inverter driven systems. If noise is very important to where you are placing the unit, you should entertain an inverter driven model.

Traditional: 240v AC powered compressor. Single stage is on or off, two stage has a low and high power setting.

Inverter Driven: Compressor can run at the exact speed needed to deliver the capacity requested. It also can ramp up slowly instead of fully powering up instantly getting rid of the power dip and the “buzz” sound when an A/C starts.

Product Warranty



There are two warranties on an Air Conditioner. First is the traditional warranty on the AC unit.

When registered, Air Conditioners typically have a 10 Year Part Warranty, and 1 Year Labor warranty from the installing contractor. Some contractors offer upgraded 10 Year Part AND LABOR warranties.

The second warranty is for the Compressor, the most expensive part of the Air Conditioner. Typically a compressor will have a 10-20 year warranty, with some having a lifetime warranty for the original owner of the equipment. Just because it is under warranty doesn't mean replacement of a compressor is free through as it takes a lot of work, time, and refrigerant. Expect something between \$600-1200 for a warranty compressor change. It is NOT common for a compressor to fail for many years.



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This document is designed to help homeowners understand the key differences between central air conditioners out there. We strongly believe an informed decision is the only way to buy. We hope you found this doc helpful!