

No Interest Loan Scheme

Heat Pump Guide

When buying a heat pump there are a number of things to consider. This guide provides information to help you with your decision about what to buy, and how best to use a heat pump.

What Size Heat Pump?

This depends on the size of the room being heated. Insulation, glass, curtains, floor and aspect are all considered. Most reputable retailers provide a measure up service. This guide is designed for single or two room systems.

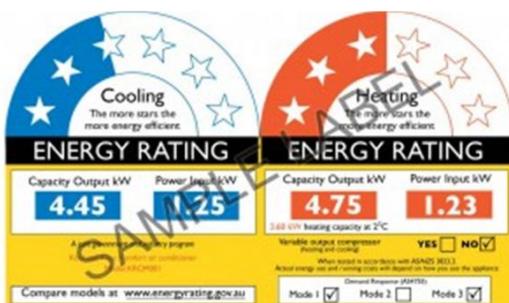
What type of machine?

A single split reverse cycle air conditioner. This is also called a heat pump. This has a unit outside and one inside. This can cool and heat your room. The power output of such machines is roughly between 2.5 kilowatts and 9 kilowatts.

Efficiency

The star rating on heat pumps is important. There will be a star rating for cooling and for heating on the inside unit in the electrical appliance shop. Once your room is “measured”, then choose the highest stars for heating, as cooling is rarely used in Tasmania.

www.energyrating.gov.au allows comparisons of models. The energy label will look similar to this:



The output is the energy you receive (heat), in kilowatts, and the power input is how much energy the machine draws from the grid. This input is lower than the output because heat pumps are very efficient.

The Inverter technology in today's heat pumps is more energy efficient, quicker and quieter than old models.

If you absolutely need to leave a heat pump on when you are not present, look for a model with the lowest heating setting. Some will go down to 10 degrees.

Installation

These units must be installed by a qualified installer. An average, simple install could cost over \$700. Space for the inside and outside units must be found, and preferably on one wall. Floor mounted inside units are more expensive, but as warm air rises, this seems the logical place to put a heat pump. However, more room is often found in living areas near the ceiling.

Major brands

Fujitsu, Daikin, Panasonic, Samsung, Mitsubishi, Kelvinator, LG, Samsung

Costs range from \$750 to \$2500

Sustainability Usage Tips

- Use the timer, to turn on 15 minutes before getting up – this will reduce usage
- Only have the machine on when you need it
- Monitor your room's temperature with a thermometer
- When using the heat pump on heating, set the temperature to 18-21 degrees and use the fan to push more warm air if needed i.e. instead of turning up the heat setting, turn up the fan
- When using the heat pump for cooling, set the temperature to 26 degrees
- If the heat pump is installed to heat one area, keep this space closed off from cooler parts of the home
- Use in conjunction with a ceiling fan on low (winter) at all heating times
- Use in conjunction with a ceiling fan on high (summer) at all cooling times (see NILS ceiling fan guide for more on ceiling fans)