CHECKLIST: BUYING A HEATING OR COOLING SYSTEM

With 60% of your annual electricity bill going toward cooling and heating, it makes sense to look for ways to reduce your usage and your bills.

With the COOL SAVINGS REBATE program, you can save up to $550* on ENERGY STAR® qualified central cooling and heating systems† purchased from and installed by a participating contractor. Most importantly, you'll continue to save up to $350 per year on your electricity bill.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ☐ **Choose a Contractor**: Look for a licensed and experienced professional. Ask family/friends for recommendations, and remember, a **COOL SAVINGS REBATE** participating contractor can help you choose quality, energy efficient equipment that is eligible to receive rebates. To find a participating contractor in your area, go to: **everykilowattcounts.ca/coolsavings**

- ☐ **Equipment sizing**: It is important that your system is sized correctly. Over-sized systems will use more energy and provide less comfort. Your contractor should perform a heat loss/gain calculation that considers such things as:
  - age of the home, square footage, home's exposure to the sun

- ☐ **ENERGY STAR** qualified equipment: has the same features as standard products but also incorporates energy saving technology. They can save up to 15% a year on your cooling and heating bills.

- ☐ **Programmable Thermostat**: Maximize your savings by having a participating **COOL SAVINGS REBATE** contractor replace your old non-programmable thermostat with one that is programmable.

- ☐ **Cost/Quotes:**
  - Over time, a more efficient system's lower operating cost will more than pay for the higher upfront cost.
  - Review your options. When comparing quotes, look at the type of equipment as well as the price.

- ☐ **Warranty:** Ask about the manufacturer's warranty.

- ☐ **Maintenance**: Without regular servicing, cooling and heating systems waste energy and are more likely to break down. Ask your contractor about annual servicing and also what maintenance you should perform (for example, replacing filters).

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HEATING SYSTEM SPECIFIC:

☐ **Type of furnace:** It's a good idea to replace your existing system with a new one of the same type as this can save you money on replacement costs. The exception is if you have electric heat, which is usually more expensive to operate than other fuels. If natural gas is available in your area, it might be a good option to consider.

☐ **Consider the system's AFUE Rating:** Rates consumption efficiency
Minimum available in Canada 90% efficiency (natural gas)
High-efficiency furnace: 92% - 97% efficiency (natural gas)

☐ **Consider furnaces with variable-speed motors and/or two-stage furnaces:**

- Variable-speed furnace: Purchasing high-efficiency equipment with an ECM motor qualifies for the **COOL SAVINGS REBATE** program and can reduce the electrical consumption of the furnace motor by as much as 60% over a standard motor.
- Two-stage furnace: Operates at low fire or high fire. The longer run periods with low fire allow for fewer start/stop cycles, less drafts and very little temperature variance.

COOLING SYSTEM SPECIFIC:

Most common home systems used are split systems, consisting of an outdoor condenser, indoor evaporator coil and blower motor.

☐ **SEER/EER Levels:**

- Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating (SEER): Measures how efficiently a cooling system will operate over a season.
- Energy Efficiency Rating (EER): Measures how efficiently a cooling system will operate when the outdoor temperature is at a specific level (32° Celsius) .

A minimum SEER of 14.5 and minimum EER of 12.0 is required to meet the ENERGY STAR® ratings to qualify for the **COOL SAVINGS REBATE.**

☐ **Evaporator/Condenser**: The evaporator is located inside your furnace and the condenser is the unit that's located outside the home. Both units need to be properly matched to work together and both should be replaced at the same time for maximum efficiency.

☐ **Air Ducts**: Ensure your contractor inspects the ducts for leakage, damage, under-sizing and compatibility with your new system. Up to 30% of your systems efficiency is a result of proper duct work.

*Participants must comply with all program terms and conditions found at everykilowattcounts.ca. Rebates are available for installation completed on or before Dec. 31, 2010 and must be submitted no later than Feb. 1, 2011. Equipment must be purchased from and installed by a participating contractor. Annual electricity bill savings are estimated based on past program experience. Actual savings may vary. †Replacement furnaces must be mid- to high-efficiency models with an electronically commutated motor (ECM). ECM is a registered trademark. OMOfficial Marks of the Ontario Power Authority.

- Require more information?
  Ontario Power Authority : **everykilowattcounts.ca**
  ENERGY STAR (Natural Resources Canada): **oee.nrcan.gc.ca/residential**

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