

CENTRAL AIR WITHOUT THE DUCTWORK

As more and more home and business owners are asking for year round climate control, the air conditioning business in Vermont is expanding rapidly. Client's expectations of enhanced system performance are growing and they are looking for quality and value. In this market ductless air conditioning systems are gaining acceptance and popularity. Ductless air conditioning systems have a condensor outdoors and the distribution, instead of being an air handler with central ductwork throughout, is a flat panel that mounts on the wall of the area you are looking to cool and dehumidify.

Amidst these market changes the rising cost of energy is on everyone's mind. "People want comfort but they don't want to spend a fortune. They recognize the value in efficiency". says Mark Stephenson, General Manager for Vermont Energy, a Burlington, VT. mechanical contractor who specializes in HVAC.

"For about 90% of our clients ductless air conditioning is becoming the solution to their needs. It provides the quality of central air with lower operating and installation costs," he added.

The Federal government raised the bar in January of 2006 requiring all "split air conditioning systems" to increase their operating efficiency to 13 SEER or better. The Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating allows the consumer to compare and shop for quality and efficiency. Some manufacturers have exceeded the requirement and are redefining market. "Mitsubishi ductless systems have jumped from 10 to 16 or 17 SEER reducing operating costs around 60% in one year". Stephenson reported.

"Some of our clients are replacing noisy window or through the wall systems and their saving can be even greater. This is a huge breakthrough in efficiency".

Recent innovations are also expanding the ability for multiple wall hung cooling panels to be placed around a house providing excellent zoning capability. The separate control of each area increases the comfort while further reducing energy costs. "The family room on the Southwest corner gets the sun all the time while their Master bedroom facing East only gets the morning sun, so they have completely different cooling loads and at different times of the day". Stephenson noted. "It's one of those products that exceeds expectations. It's like central air without the expense and intrusion of all that ductwork".

You may reach Vermont Energy Contracting & Supply at 802.658.6055

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