



When is it Time to Replace my Air Conditioning System?

One of the questions I am asked most often is how to know when it is time to replace an old air conditioning system. According to manufacturers, the average life of an air conditioning system ranges from 11 to 14 years, so this is an issue you are likely to face several times during your lifetime. The real issue is cost; how much does it cost to operate your system and how big are your repair bills?

Chances are, a cooling system installed in 2000 is 30% to 40% less efficient than today's models. So, by replacing your heating and cooling system you will immediately reduce your utility bills. Coupled with savings on repair bills, these savings should provide a full payback of your investment within 5 years or less. When you factor in the inconvenience of a breakdown during the middle of one of our Texas summers, cost can be the least of your concerns!

When it comes time to replace your system it pays to think long-term. A poor quality system may cost less up front, but the long term cost of a well built, well installed system will be far less. Many of the newer, high efficiency systems come with full parts and labor warranties for up to 10 years. Other than preventive maintenance (which is required to keep the warranty in effect), a homeowner will not be out-of-pocket for any repair expense for a full 10 years!

Back to the issue of when to replace your system, only you can make that judgment. On one side of the equation you have utility and repair costs plus the "inconvenience factor" of a system which may be breaking down frequently. On the other side you have the cost of a new system. Our recommendation (if your system is still operating) is to look for a 5 year payback on your investment in a new system. If your investment will be repaid through utility savings plus reduced repair expenses in 5 years or less, we recommend replacing your present system now. And, we recommend purchasing a system which includes a full 10 year warranty on all parts and labor.

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