

# Split System, Reverse Cycle Air Conditioners

## What will they do for you?

Consider a split system, reverse cycle air conditioner

If you are looking to replace your current air conditioner, installing a split system, reverse cycle air conditioner may be a good choice for your home.

### What is a split system, reverse cycle air conditioner?

A split system, reverse cycle air conditioner is an electric appliance used to control the temperature of your rooms. It can be used to heat and cool a living space.

### What are the benefits of split system reverse cycle air conditioners?

- Provides both heating and cooling
- Directly replaces existing appliances
- More energy efficient than gas
- More cost efficient than gas
- Easy to purchase and find qualified installers

### What to consider when buying a split system, reverse cycle air conditioners?

- Can require extensive installation
- Larger systems are less energy efficiency
- Standby power reduces the efficiency



## Energy Efficiency

### How do I know I have an efficient split system, reverse cycle air conditioner?

Air conditioners are given star ratings to show how well they perform. Current systems generally have 3-4 stars with some system achieving as high as a 7 star rating. If you are looking for a highly efficient system should, you should buy a system with 3.5-5 stars.

## Installation considerations

- A licensed installer is required.
- Larger systems will cost more to install. For example, a 3.5 kW system will cost around \$600 to install, where a 7 kW system will cost \$720 to install.
- Additional installation costs can cost as much as \$3000 for additional electrical circuits, mounting hardware and labor.
- Some systems are eligible for government rebates. Check with your installer for more information.



## How often will it need to be replaced?

The quality of the appliance will determine when a replacement is necessary. High and average rated split system, reverse cycle air conditioners typically last 10-15 years. Lower rated products may last as little as 3-5 years before they need to be replaced.

## How do I maintain my air conditioner?

Maintenance for split system air conditioners is very easy. Following these steps will greatly increase the lifetime and efficiency of your unit:

- Changing filters and cleaning screens regularly
- Clearing any plant growth or obstructions from the unit
- Shut of the unit during seasons it is not used
- Inspect the appliance yearly to ensure proper function
- Recharge the refrigerant through a licensed installer if the efficiency decreases

If you do not maintain your unit correctly the efficiency can decrease 5% every year.

## Why should I replace an existing unit or consider a new installation?

Space heating accounts for the largest percentage of the average home energy expenditure. The greatest energy savings can be achieved by ensuring new or efficient units are in use. As technology progresses, the star ratings are updated to account for the changes. Therefore, an older system with a relatively high-energy star rating may not perform to the standards of the new energy-rating index. Additionally, older units are not as well insulated as current unit, meaning they may have heat energy losses.

