Home Cooling

Energy Star 101: Everything You Need to Know About

How an Air Conditioner Works: Similar to how a refrigerator works, air conditioners transfer heat from a lower temperature to a higher temperature. 

What is a split system? Many types of air conditioners are split systems because they are made up of an outdoor and indoor part, which contains the condenser and compressor, and a control unit, which is often mounted on a bathroom or hot pump.

Types of Air Conditioners

Central

- Mounted on the wall of a building
- Cooling and heating system
- Cooling system provides more even cooling than window units
- Quieter
- More expensive
- Installing a ducted system.

Ductless, Mini-Split

- Mounted on the wall
- Cooling and can be either a heating system
- Cooling system provides more even cooling than window units
- Quieter
- More expensive
- Installing a ducted system.

Window

- Portable
- Heating system
- Quieter
- More expensive
- Requires a separate electrical outlet

Maintenance Your Air Conditioner

- Check your air filters for debris and clean them or replace them if needed
- Check the compressors and condensers for debris
- Check the air ducts for blockages

Common Air Conditioner Problems

- Your unit isn’t cooling properly
- Your unit isn’t turning on
- Limited airflow

Tips for Lowering Your Cooling Costs

- Use the bathroom fan when taking a shower or bath
- Turn off your fans when you're not in the room
- Routinely replace or clean your air filters
- Insulate your attic and windows
- Check your air leakage -- it can cost 30 percent of your cooling costs
- Use ENERGY STAR-rated appliances

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