

# Why should I zone my house?

# We're Glad You Asked!

To keep all areas of your home comfortable, no matter what the weather! No longer must you have hot or cold rooms, or pay to heat or cool areas of your home that you rarely use. Zoning has come a long way in recent years, and it is now efficient, easy to install and flexible enough for any home.

# WHAT IS ZONING?

Zoning divides your home into separate comfort areas and makes your comfort equipment cool or heat only areas that need conditioning. For example, a living room with large windows may stay too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter. A zoning system will send more conditioned air to the living room, to make up for the heat gained or lost through the windows.

# WHY ZONE?

Today's families have different lifestyles and comfort needs. Maybe you have a home office that needs extra conditioning during the day, and none at night. Or you only use the upstairs bedrooms when guests visit. Whatever your needs, zoning can keep each area of your house at the perfect temperature for you and each family member.

#### WHEN TO INSTALL ZONING

If you are replacing your air conditioner, furnace or heat pump, it is an excellent time to install a zoning system. When your new comfort equipment is matched with a zoning system, you will have precise control in each zone. Houses that had been nearly impossible to keep comfortable are a thing of the past.

Zoning is also excellent for new homes, since it is installed during construction. If you are buying a new home, check with your builder about a zoning system. It could make the difference between enjoying your new house and being truly comfortable in it!



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# **ZONING ALTERNATIVES**

Installing more than one comfort system can work to keep temperatures comfortable, but multiple systems are expensive. Typically, in a two-story home, one comfort system is installed for the downstairs, and one for the upstairs. This way, when hot air rises, the upstairs unit can keep it cool upstairs, even in the summer. And in the winter, the downstairs unit can keep that area warm.

Zoning uses only one comfort system to control the temperature for each zone. Installing a comfort system with a zoning system costs quite a bit less than installing two systems, and the yearly maintenance is also less expensive.

## **HOW DOES ZONING WORK?**

In almost all zoning systems, zoning is controlled by thermostats in each zone. For instance, if you have four zones in your house, you will have four thermostats. Depending on your zoning system, you may have a choice of thermostats. With separate thermostats, each zone signals the heating or cooling unit independently. This lets the system deliver cooling or heating only where it is needed. You will never have to cool or heat the whole house just to make one room comfortable.

### **ZONING SAVES YOU MONEY!**

Zoning can drastically lower your cooling and heating bills. Zoning systems can use setback thermostats in each zone to make the most of energy savings. No more closing registers or shutting doors with each seasonal change. A good example of this is a guest room on the north side of the house. You do not want to condition it like the rest of the house, but in the winter, it needs to be kept from freezing. With zoning you can set the thermostat back, and know you are not wasting money.

Another way zoning can save money is when you are not at home. When you leave for work or vacation, you can set the whole house at an energy-saving temperature to avoid conditioning an empty house. And if you have setback thermostats, you can program them to have your living areas comfortable when you arrive home.