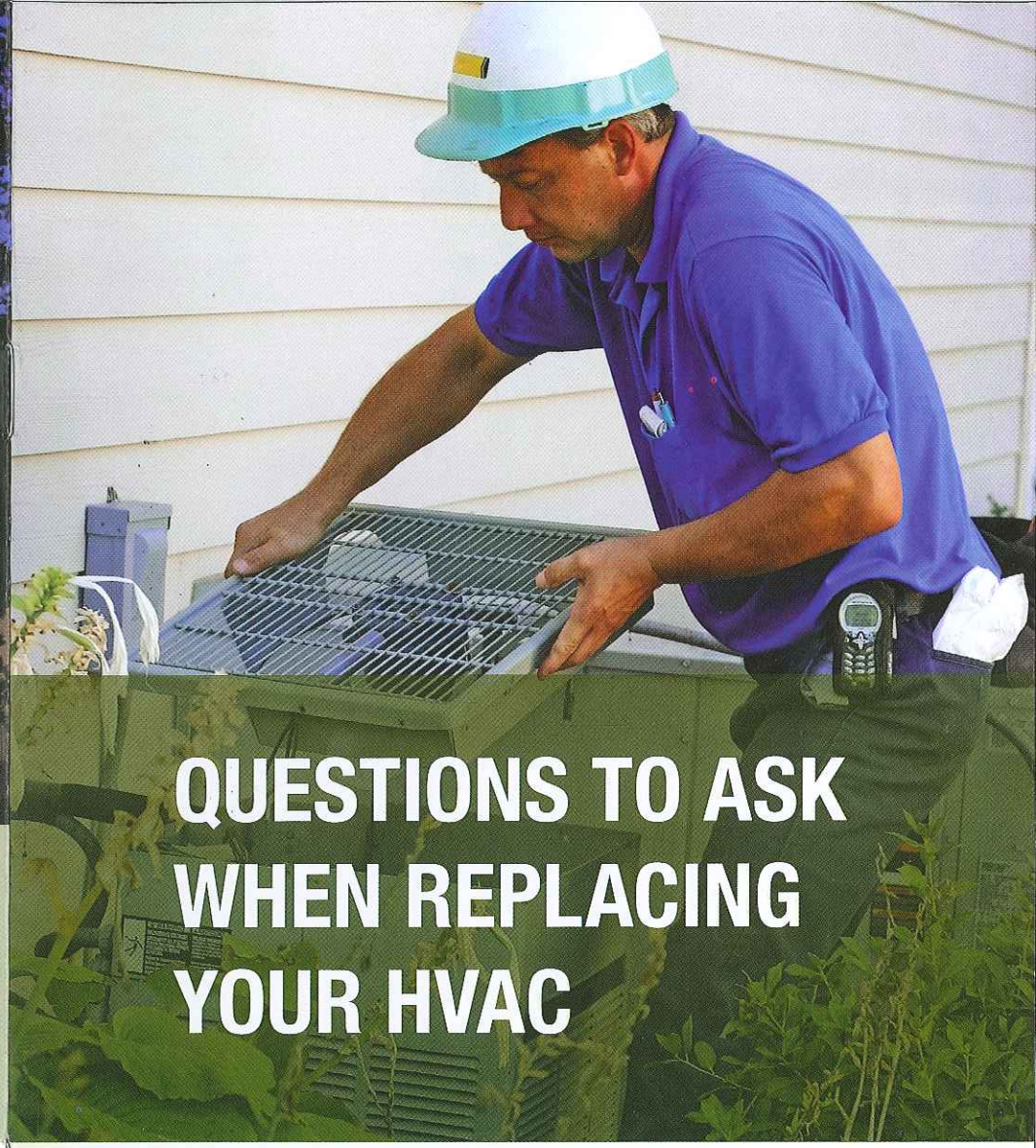
Your local Touchstone Energy cooperative can help answer your questions about HVAC systems and may offer incentives or financing for replacement HVAC systems.

For more information, please contact your local Touchstone Energy cooperative or visit **TogetherWeSave.com**.



QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN REPLACING YOUR HVAC

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IS IT TIME TO REPLACE YOUR HVAC SYSTEM?

If your heating and cooling system is 15 to 20 years old and is experiencing problems, it may be time to consider installing a new, efficient ENERGY STAR® system.

If you are considering replacing the heating ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system that heats and cools your home, you need the right information to make an informed decision. That's where your Touchstone Energy cooperative comes in.

We have a list of questions to ask – and things to consider – before purchasing your new HVAC system. By asking the right questions, you will be able to select the HVAC system that best fits your needs.

SHOULD I REPLACE ALL OF MY HVAC EQUIPMENT AT THE SAME TIME?

Yes. You want to be sure that all the parts of your HVAC system work together properly.

Replacing only the outdoor unit or the indoor unit of an HVAC system may appear to save money, but it could contribute to service problems later on.

A mismatched system may not deliver the energy efficiency or performance that you expect. If an older part of the system—such as an outdoor unit of a heat pump, ductwork, piping or a furnace—is replaced, it's important to match the new part as closely as possible to the existing system.

Installing a new high-efficiency heat pump, for example, but using the old ductwork could affect performance. That ductwork may be leaky, restricted or inadequate—and may not be sized for your new heat pump. Ask your contractor to thoroughly inspect your ductwork to identify any problems. Ductwork should be properly sealed and insulated, and it should be sized for your new system.

WHAT SIZE SYSTEM DO I NEED?

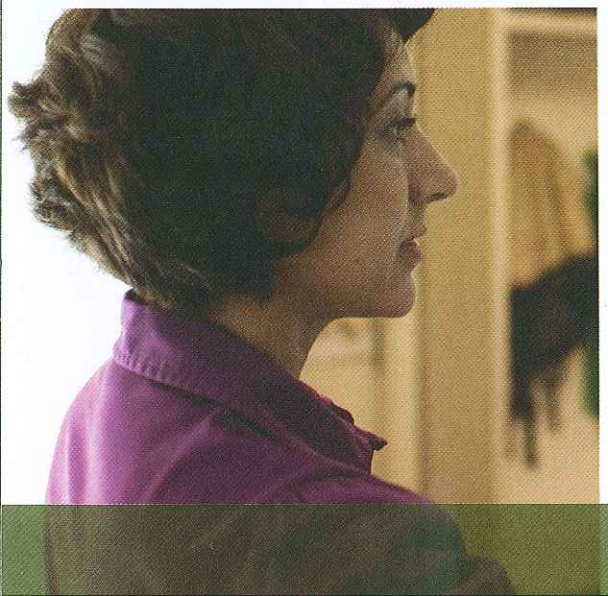
An HVAC system that is too small cannot deliver adequate heating or cooling in extreme weather. And a system that is too large will not only cost more, but provide poorer temperature and humidity control.

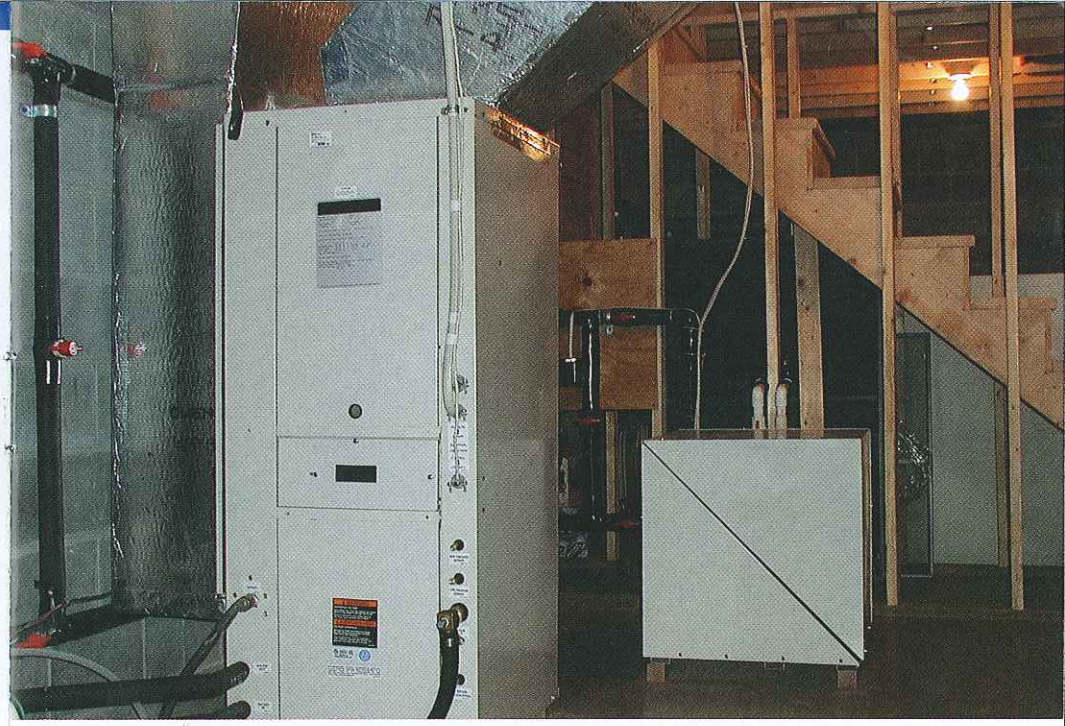
To ensure that your new HVAC system is the right size for your home, ask a contractor to perform a detailed load calculation. This calculation determines the capacity of the equipment needed and the correct distribution of air to each room.

WHAT'S MY HOUSE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Before you decide on an HVAC unit, look at making energy improvements to your home. Tuning up the home not only reduces operating costs but can mean a smaller, less expensive HVAC system can do the job. For more information on ways to improve your home's energy efficiency, visit TogetherWeSave.com.

Your HVAC system should be designed to fit your home. The size, construction, orientation and location of your house all affect the size of your HVAC system.





WHAT TYPE OF SYSTEM SHOULD I BUY?

You have many choices when it comes to selecting an HVAC system. Here are some things to consider:

- An electric split-system heat pump is a common choice for year-round heating and cooling. Other options include a heat pump with a backup boiler or furnace in colder climates.
- The efficiency of a cooling system is expressed as a SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) number. All cooling systems sold today must have at least a SEER 13 rating.
- Heat pump efficiency is expressed by a Heating Season Performance Factor (HSPF), and all heat pumps sold today must have an HSPF of at least 7.7.
- Systems with higher SEERs and HSPFs cost more initially, but have lower operating costs. Split-system heat pumps with an ENERGY STAR® label have SEERs of 14.5 or higher and HSPFs of 8.2 or higher.

nt equipment requires routine maintenance.

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A good starting point is 78°F in the
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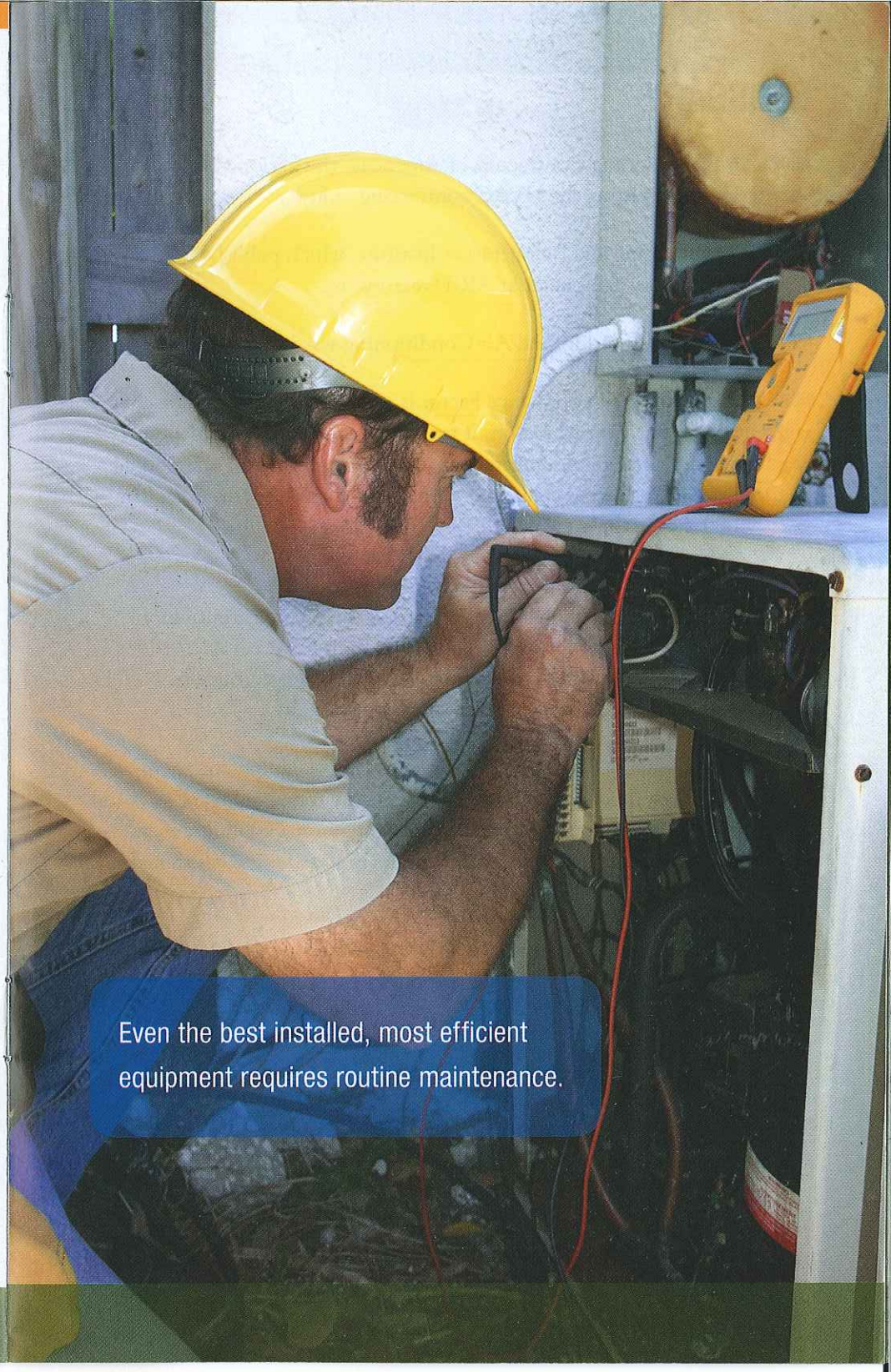

Even the best installed, most efficient equipment requires routine maintenance.