



360 REVIEWS

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# Best HVAC Companies of 2022

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By [Jeff Kinney](#)

Feb. 2, 2022

**Best HVAC Companies of 2022**

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[Ratir](#)

## Popular HVAC Companies

### Carrier »



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#### Best HVAC Company of 2022

360 OVERALL RATING  
★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

**Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Ductless Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT  
✓

### Bryant »



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360 OVERALL RATING  
★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

**Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Ductless Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT  
✓

### Goodman »



[Learn More](#)

360 OVERALL RATING  
★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

**Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Ductless Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT  
—

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We often don't think about heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems – at least until they break. It then becomes clear how vital these systems are for keeping indoor spaces comfortable. Your HVAC system is probably the most expensive system in your home, so if you need a new one, it's important to choose the right company.

We've done the research for you and rated the Best HVAC Companies of 2022, including Carrier, Bryant, Goodman, Lennox, Rheem, and others. Use our rating and the information we've gathered to better understand how HVAC systems work and find the right HVAC company for your needs.

## Our Best HVAC Companies Rating

- #1 [Carrier](#)
- #2 [Bryant](#)
- #3 [Goodman](#)
- #4 [Lennox](#)
- #5 [Trane](#)
- #5 [Rheem](#)
- #7 [American Standard](#)
- #8 [York](#)
- #8 [Frigidaire](#)

#10 [Amana](#)#10 [Coleman](#)

## Compare the Best HVAC Companies of 2022

### Carrier »



4.2 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE **Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Ductless Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT ✓

BASE PARTS WARRANTY **5 years**[Learn More »](#)

### Bryant »



4.1 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE **Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Ductless Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT ✓

BASE PARTS WARRANTY **5 years**[Learn More »](#)

### Goodman »



4 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE **Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Ductless Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT —

BASE PARTS WARRANTY **5 years**[Learn More »](#)

### Lennox »



3.9 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE **Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Mini-Split Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT ✓

BASE PARTS WARRANTY **Warranties on parts typically range from 2 to ten years or for the life of the unit, depending on type and series.**[Learn More »](#)

**Trane »**



3.8 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE **Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Ductless Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT

BASE PARTS WARRANTY **5 years**

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## Best HVAC Companies in Detail

**Carrier »**



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### Best HVAC Company of 2022

360 OVERALL RATING



HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

**Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Ductless Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT



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**Carrier:** Carrier is our Best HVAC Company of 2022 with a score of 4.2 out of 5. It offers 16 HVAC systems that professional reviewers say are some of the quietest and most energy-efficient available. Its furnaces and heat pumps also get high marks for their

innovative technology and reliability. You can purchase a packaged system, ductless mini-split system, air handler, air purifier, humidifier, and more. Carrier systems aren't the cheapest available, so if you're on a budget, you might want to look at other companies. But you can't go wrong with Carrier if you're willing to pay a little more for a high-quality unit that will last.

Read more in our [Carrier review](#).

## Bryant »



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360 OVERALL RATING

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

**Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Ductless Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT



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**Bryant:** Our No. 2 HVAC company with a score of 4.1 out of 5, Bryant sells some of the best HVAC systems on the market. The company is owned by Carrier and offers very similar equipment that's made in the same factory with the same parts. In fact, most Bryant models are identical to the corresponding Carrier units but sell for slightly less. Bryant's top-tier air conditioner stands out for its especially quiet operation, and its furnaces are some of the most efficient available. In addition to air conditioners, heat pumps, and furnaces, it sells ductless systems, geothermal heat pumps, air purifiers, and other heating and cooling products.

Read more in our [Bryant review](#).

## Goodman »



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360 OVERALL RATING

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

**Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Ductless Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT



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**Goodman:** Coming in at No. 3 with a score of 4 out of 5, Goodman is a budget-friendly alternative to its sister company Amana. Goodman is known for its excellent warranties and extensive quality control process for each unit that leaves the factory. While Goodman systems aren't the most technologically advanced or energy-efficient, they are some of the most reliable, according to professional reviews. They're also relatively affordable and backed by a 10-year limited warranty on parts, as well as either a two- or 10-year replacement warranty. Features that make Goodman's units especially durable include galvanized steel cases and furnaces with heat exchangers made of aluminum and steel.

Read more in our [Goodman review](#).

## Lennox »



[Learn More](#)

360 OVERALL RATING

★★★★☆ 3.9 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

**Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Mini-Split Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT



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**Lennox:** Scoring 3.9 out of 5, Lennox has some of the most energy-efficient HVAC products available with higher Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) ratings. This makes it a good choice for anyone who wants to save money on their monthly utility bill. Reviewers say its units are reliable, and because the company has three tiers of products, it offers something for every budget. You can use a Lennox furnace with a heat pump, allowing you to switch from gas to electricity depending on which is the cheapest at the time. In addition, features like the company's Precise Comfort Technology and iComfort smart thermostat help regulate temperature to maximize efficiency. However, the company does charge more than some of its competitors.

Read more in our [Lennox review](#).

**Trane** »



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360 OVERALL RATING

★★★★☆ 3.8 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

**Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Ductless Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT

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**Trane:** Professional reviewers credit Trane, which comes in at No. 5 and scores 3.8 out of 5, with producing high-quality, reliable HVAC units. The company is owned by American Standard but makes its own equipment. Trane's quality-testing regime is extensive and includes exposing every unit to the equivalent of about five years of use. To take advantage of the 10-year limited warranty on parts and extended 12-year warranty on some units' compressors, your system must be installed by a company-certified technician. Trane's quality comes at a price, as its air conditioning systems, heat pumps, and furnaces are some of the most expensive on the market. In addition, its SEER ratings aren't as high and they aren't as quiet as competing units from some other manufacturers.

Read more in our [Trane review](#).

**Rheem** »[Learn More](#)

360 OVERALL RATING

★★★★☆ 3.8 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

**Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Mini-Split Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT





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**Rheem:** This company, scoring 3.8 out of 5, makes budget-friendly, durable HVAC equipment. Rheem has been in business for about 70 years and has become known as a cheaper alternative to companies like Carrier and Trane. Reviewers say Rheem offers decent performance, and its units have higher SEER ratings and are quieter than some alternatives. Note that although Rheem doesn't require a company-certified technician to install its equipment, quality and durability can vary depending on the quality of the installation. The company's warranties are about average, and professional reviewers say repairs can be expensive because Rheem uses proprietary parts.

Read more in our [Rheem review](#).

## American Standard »



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360 OVERALL RATING

★★★★☆ 3.7 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

**Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Ductless Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT

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**American Standard:** With a score of 3.7 out of 5, American Standard has been in the HVAC industry since 1929. The company's equipment is nearly identical to that of its sister company Trane, but it costs a bit less upfront. Like Trane, American Standard rigorously tests every unit by simulating harsh environments to ensure high

performance. As a result, reviewers say American Standard is well-suited to people living in extreme-weather areas. Its units are also smaller than most, making them popular with owners of smaller homes. The company doesn't offer the most energy-efficient models on the market, but its equipment is considered well-built and dependable.

Read more in our [American Standard review](#).

## York »



[Learn More](#)

### Best Budget HVAC Company

360 OVERALL RATING

★★★★☆ 3.6 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

**Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Mini-Split Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT



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**York:** York, tying for No. 8 on our list with a score of 3.6 out of 5, is well-known for producing air conditioning systems, heat pumps, furnaces, and other HVAC equipment. According to professional reviewers, the company makes high-quality equipment that's relatively affordable. Its premium models have high SEER ratings and are relatively quiet. York units feature innovative technologies, including variable-speed motors that produce more efficient airflow. There's a relatively generous 10-year limited warranty on parts, a one-year warranty on labor, and a five-year limited warranty on thermostats. The company's premium Affinity products come with a lifetime compressor or heat exchanger warranty.

Read more in our [York review](#).

## Frigidaire »



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360 OVERALL RATING

★★★★☆ 3.6 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

**Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Packaged Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT



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**Frigidaire:** Also tying for No. 8 with a score of 3.6 out of 5, Frigidaire is best known for refrigerators but also sells central air conditioners, heat pumps, furnaces, and other HVAC equipment made by Nortek Global. Frigidaire says it rigorously checks every HVAC unit it ships, although some reviewers say quality has slipped a bit since Nortek Global began manufacturing the equipment. Frigidaire's product line isn't as extensive as some of the other companies on our list, and its equipment isn't the quietest and doesn't have the highest SEER ratings. However, professional reviewers say Frigidaire's prices are quite reasonable, so if you're looking for a recognizable HVAC brand without breaking the bank, Frigidaire should be on your short list.

Read more in our [Frigidaire review](#).

## Amana »



[Learn More](#)

360 OVERALL RATING

★★★★☆ 3.5 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

**Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Ductless Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT

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**Amana:** Tying for No. 10 with Coleman with a score of 3.5 out of five, Amana sells high-quality, efficient HVAC equipment. Professional reviewers say Amana units are some of the best around but cost more to install. Still, Amana's quality and superior warranty arguably compensate for those higher upfront costs. Lower-end models come with at least a 10-year limited warranty on parts, plus a two-year unit replacement warranty on the compressor or heat exchanger. Premium units feature a lifetime replacement warranty if the compressor or heat exchanger fails. You're unlikely to need those warranties, however, as Amana's equipment is known for its durability.

Read more in our [Amana review](#).

**Coleman** »[Learn More](#)

## Best for Durability at a Lower Cost

360 OVERALL RATING

★★★★☆ 3.5 out of 5

HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

**Air Conditioners, Furnaces, Heat Pumps, Mini-Split Systems**

ENERGY STAR MOST EFFICIENT



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**Coleman:** Coleman is a good option for homeowners who want reasonably priced, durable equipment, even if it lacks the cutting-edge technology of some of its competitors. Reviewers also say Coleman units are relatively compact, making them a good option for smaller homes. The company's warranty is excellent as well. There's a 10-year limited warranty on parts and one year of free labor for repairs if you register your equipment within 90 days of installation. Additionally, some units have a lifetime limited warranty on the compressor or heat exchanger. Coleman also will remove equipment that doesn't meet expectations and provide a full refund.

Read more in our [Coleman review](#).

## What Is HVAC and How Does It Work?

HVAC stands for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning. HVAC systems include central air conditioning units, furnaces, and other equipment. Although they can be configured in a variety of ways, all HVAC systems have the same essential function, according to the [American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers](#): They take in fresh air and use a mechanical ventilation system to heat or cool it as required, and then distribute the air throughout a building. Both commercial and residential buildings have HVAC systems, although commercial versions are often larger.

HVAC systems can also include air purifiers and whole-home humidifiers. According to Rick Bohdel with [Ductz](#), air purifiers remove dust, bacteria, spores, airborne particles, viruses, and other impurities to keep them out of people's lungs. Whole-home humidifiers and dehumidifiers add or remove moisture in the air to keep a home or commercial building comfortable and reduce the need to run an air conditioning unit.

You can connect all of these components to a thermostat. This can be a conventional thermostat or a smart thermostat connected to your home Wi-Fi network along with a [security system](#) or smart appliances like a [refrigerator](#), [washer](#), or [dryer](#). Some HVAC control systems let you program your equipment through an app to make small changes that improve overall efficiency. Smart thermostats can also reduce the overall cost of heating and cooling your home by adjusting the temperature on a schedule that you set based on your lifestyle.

## Types of HVAC Systems

There are several types of HVAC systems, each of which is appropriate for different applications. They include:

- **Split system:** This type of HVAC system places one unit inside and one outside. Depending on the owner's needs, it can include a furnace and AC unit, an air handler and heat pump, or a furnace and heat pump.
- **Hybrid heat pump:** This uses an electric heat pump in milder weather and a furnace for when it's really cold. Also known as a dual-fuel system, it can save money over other types of HVAC systems because it costs less to heat your home with a heat pump than with a furnace.
- **Ductless mini-split system:** A ductless mini-split system has an outdoor unit that contains the compressor and condenser. It also has an indoor unit called an air handler mounted in or near a ceiling that blows cooled air directly into the room, according to the [Air Conditioning, Heating, & Refrigeration Institute](#) (AHRI). It's designed for smaller spaces.
- **Ducted mini-split:** A ducted mini-split uses tubes instead of larger ducts to move air into a room from an outdoor compressor and condenser. This solution is best for homes where there isn't a lot of space for traditional ductwork. Ducted mini-split systems offer better air circulation than their ductless counterparts, and they don't need an air handler mounted on the wall.
- **Packaged system:** A packaged system has the same equipment as a split system but keeps all the units outside the home or other building.

## HVAC System Efficiency and Noise Levels

Air conditioners receive an efficiency rating called a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER). This measures the ratio of a system's cooling output over a typical cooling

season, divided by the energy it uses in watt-hours. An air conditioner must have a SEER of at least 14 to receive the U.S. government's [Energy Star](#) certification.

Furnace efficiency is measured by its Annual Fuel Efficiency Rating (AFUE), which measures the unit's heat output compared to its total energy input. [Energy.gov](#) says a high-efficiency heating system has an AFUE rating of 90% to 98.5%.

The table below compares the efficiency of our Best HVAC Companies of 2022.

## Efficiency Comparisons for HVAC Companies

### Carrier »

AIR CONDITIONER EFFICIENCY RATING (SEER) **13 - 26**

HEAT PUMP EFFICIENCY RATING (SEER) **14 - 24**

GAS FURNACE EFFICIENCY RATING (AFUE) **80% - 98.5%**

DUCTLESS/ MINI-SPLIT EFFICIENCYRATING (SEER) **16.5 - 42**

### Bryant »

AIR CONDITIONER EFFICIENCY RATING (SEER) **14 - 26**

HEAT PUMP EFFICIENCY RATING (SEER) **14 - 24**

GAS FURNACE EFFICIENCY RATING (AFUE) **80% - 98.3%**

DUCTLESS/ MINI-SPLIT EFFICIENCYRATING (SEER) **17 - 42**

### Goodman »

AIR CONDITIONER EFFICIENCY RATING (SEER) **12 - 24.5**

HEAT PUMP EFFICIENCY RATING (SEER) **15 - 21**

GAS FURNACE EFFICIENCY RATING (AFUE) **80% - 98%**

DUCTLESS/ MINI-SPLIT EFFICIENCYRATING (SEER) **17 - 26.1**

### Lennox »

AIR CONDITIONER EFFICIENCY RATING (SEER) **13 - 28**

HEAT PUMP EFFICIENCY RATING (SEER) **16 - 24**

GAS FURNACE EFFICIENCY RATING (AFUE) **80% - 99%**

DUCTLESS/ MINI-SPLIT EFFICIENCYRATING (SEER) **19 - 24.5**

### Trane »

AIR CONDITIONER EFFICIENCY RATING (SEER) **13 - 21**

HEAT PUMP EFFICIENCY RATING (SEER) **14 - 20**

GAS FURNACE EFFICIENCY RATING (AFUE) **92.1% - 97.3%**

DUCTLESS/ MINI-SPLIT EFFICIENCY RATING (SEER) **12.8 - 33.1**

[Expand List](#)

All HVAC systems make noise when they operate, but some are louder than others. The table below compares the noise levels of our Best HVAC Companies of 2022.

## Noise Level Comparisons for HVAC Companies

### Carrier »

AIR CONDITIONER SOUND RATING DB(A) **56 decibels**

HEAT PUMP SOUND RATING DB(A) **51 decibels**

DUCTLESS/ MINI-SPLIT SOUND RATING DB(A) **27 decibels**

### Bryant »

AIR CONDITIONER SOUND RATING DB(A) **51 decibels**

HEAT PUMP SOUND RATING DB(A) **51 decibels**

DUCTLESS/ MINI-SPLIT SOUND RATING DB(A) **27 decibels**

### Goodman »

AIR CONDITIONER SOUND RATING DB(A) **51.3 decibels**

HEAT PUMP SOUND RATING DB(A) **56 decibels**

DUCTLESS/ MINI-SPLIT SOUND RATING DB(A) **22 decibels**

### Lennox »

AIR CONDITIONER SOUND RATING DB(A) **59 decibels**

HEAT PUMP SOUND RATING DB(A) **58 decibels**

DUCTLESS/ MINI-SPLIT SOUND RATING DB(A) **51 decibels**

### Trane »

AIR CONDITIONER SOUND RATING DB(A) **57 decibels**

HEAT PUMP SOUND RATING DB(A) **43 decibels**

DUCTLESS/ MINI-SPLIT SOUND RATING DB(A) **19 decibels**

[Expand List](#)

## How Long Does an HVAC System Last?



According to [Conditioned Air Inc.](#), an HVAC system typically lasts 15-25 years. The exact lifespan depends on a number of factors, including unit quality, installation quality, and whether proper maintenance and repairs are performed.

Different types of HVAC units also have different lifespans, Conditioned Air says. Here are some examples.

- **Furnaces:** 20-30 years
- **Boilers:** 20-35 years
- **Heat pumps:** 10-20 years
- **Ductless mini-splits:** 10-30 years

For more information on HVAC systems, see our guide [What Is HVAC and How Does It Work?](#)

## Central Air Cost and Ways to Save

Central air conditioners need to be replaced periodically, especially as they get older and repair costs begin to add up. You also might want to replace your unit with a more efficient one even if it still works. A central AC system can cost anywhere from about \$3,000 to \$10,000. Factors that affect the final cost include:

- The quality, efficiency, and durability of the central air conditioner
- The complexity of the system design
- Whether you have to add, remove, or replace ductwork
- The HVAC contractor you choose
- How difficult the installation is, including whether equipment has to be installed in places that are hard to access

That said, don't just consider cost when choosing a central air conditioner. Other important factors include the climate where you live, the size of your home, and your preferred temperature range. You want to be comfortable in your home, so skimping on installation costs may not be worth it in the long run.

The good news is that there are ways to cut the cost of central air conditioner installation. They include:

- Installing your system during the off-season (spring or fall)
- Getting quotes from several HVAC contractors
- Taking advantage of rebates, tax credits, and financing options

You also can save money when operating your central air conditioner by:

- Maintaining a constant temperature
- Periodically changing your air filters
- Periodically inspecting your ducts
- Scheduling regular maintenance
- Inspecting equipment for airflow
- Keeping your [dryer vent clean](#)

For more information, see our guide [Central Air Cost and Ways to Save](#).

## Learn More

- [What Is HVAC and How Does it Work?](#)
- [Central Air Cost and Ways to Save](#)

## Best HVAC Companies of 2022

- [American Standard](#)
- [Amana](#)
- [Bryant](#)
- [Carrier](#)
- [Coleman](#)
- [Frigidaire](#)
- [Goodman](#)
- [Lennox](#)
- [Rheem](#)
- [Trane](#)

- [York](#)

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- [Best Refrigerators of 2022](#)
- [Best Dryers of 2022](#)
- [Best Washing Machines of 2022](#)
- [Best Moving Companies of 2022](#)

## Our 360 Methodology for Evaluating HVAC Companies

### Why You Can Trust Us: 17 HVAC Companies Researched

At U.S. News & World Report, we rank the Best Hospitals, Best Colleges, and Best Cars to guide readers through some of life's most complicated decisions. Our 360 Reviews team draws on this same unbiased approach to rate the products that you use every day. To build our ratings, we researched more than 17 HVAC companies and analyzed 9 reviews. Our 360 Reviews team does not take samples, gifts, or loans of products or services we review. All sample products provided for review are donated after review. In addition, we maintain a separate business team that has no influence over our methodology or recommendations.

The following describes our 360 approach to researching and analyzing HVAC companies to guide prospective consumers.

#### **1. We researched the companies people care most about.**

U.S. News analyzed and compared a variety of publicly available data, including internet search data, to determine which HVAC companies Americans are most interested in. We found 11 companies that stand out in terms of volume of searches and research among consumers, as well as across the different rating sources.

We then compared our top HVAC companies across several criteria, including cost, heating and cooling products available, unique warranty features offered, and customer satisfaction. Research shows that these are the most important criteria for people when selecting an HVAC company.

## **2. We created objective 360 Overall Ratings based on an analysis of third-party reviews.**

U.S. News' 360 Reviews team applied an unbiased methodology that includes opinions from professional reviews as well as consumer reviews.

Our scoring methodology is based on a composite analysis of the ratings and reviews published by credible third-party professional and consumer review sources. The ratings are not based on personal opinions or experiences of U.S. News. To calculate the ratings:

(a) We compiled two types of third-party ratings and reviews:

- *Professional Ratings and Reviews.* Many independent HVAC company evaluating sources have published their assessments of HVAC companies and their products online. We consider several of these third-party reviews to be reputable and well-researched. However, professional reviewers often make recommendations that contradict one another. Rather than relying on a single source, U.S. News believes consumers benefit most when these opinions and recommendations are considered and analyzed collectively with an objective, consensus-based methodology.
- *Consumer Ratings and Reviews.* U.S. News also reviewed published consumer ratings and reviews of HVAC providers. Sources with a sufficient number of quality consumer ratings and reviews were included in our scoring model.

Please note that not all professional and consumer rating sources met our criteria for objectivity. Therefore, some sources were excluded from our model.

(b) We standardized the inputs to create a common scale.

The third-party review source data were collected in a variety of forms, including ratings, recommendations, and accolades. Before including each third-party data point into our scoring equation, we had to standardize it so that it could be compared accurately with data points from other review sources. We used the scoring methodology described below to convert these systems to a comparable scale.

The 360 scoring process first converted each third-party rating into a common 0 to 5 scale. To balance the distribution of scores within each source's scale, we used a standard deviation (or Z-Score) calculation to determine how each company's score

compared to the source's mean score. We then used the Z-Score to create a standardized U.S. News score using the method outlined below:

- **Calculating the Z-Score:** The Z-Score represents a data point's relation to the mean measurement of the data set. The Z-Score is negative when the data point is below the mean and positive when it's above the mean; a Z-Score of 0 means it's equal to the mean. To determine the Z-Score for each third-party rating of a company, we calculated the mean of the ratings across all companies evaluated by that third-party source. We then subtracted the mean from the company's rating and divided it by the standard deviation to produce the Z-Score.
- **Calculating the T-Score:** We used a T-Score calculation to convert the Z-Score to a 0-100 scale by multiplying the Z-Score by 10. To ensure that the mean was equal across all data points, we added our desired scoring mean (between 0 and 10) to the T-Score to create an adjusted T-Score.
- **Calculating the common-scale rating:** We divided the adjusted T-Score, which is on a 100-point scale, by 20 to convert the third-party rating to a common 0-5 point system.

(c) We calculated the 360 Overall Score based on a weighted-average model.

We assigned "source weights" to each source used in the consensus scoring model based on our assessment of how much the source is trusted and recognized by consumers and how much its published review process indicates that it is both comprehensive and editorially independent. The source weights are assigned on a 1-5 scale. Any source with an assigned weight less than two was excluded from the consensus scoring model.

Finally, we combined the converted third-party data points using a weighted average formula based on source weight. This formula calculated the consensus score for each company, which we call the 360 Overall Rating.

*U.S. News 360 Reviews takes an unbiased approach to our recommendations. When you use our links to buy products, we may earn a commission but that in no way affects our editorial independence.*

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