

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Tips On Finding The Right Heating Contractor

(NAPSA)—Anytime of year can be the right time to inspect, upgrade or install a heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system.

Selecting the right contractor to perform any of these tasks can be as critical to the system's successful operation as the equipment itself.

Here are a few suggestions from the experts at York® Heating and Cooling on how to select an HVAC contractor:

- Do your homework. Start by gathering information from books, magazines and online resources about HVAC systems and what their care and maintenance involves.

- Use your network. Get recommendations from friends, co-workers, real estate agents and home improvement specialists.

- Look for professional connections. Check to see if your contractor is a member of a professional organization such as ACCA or if the contractor's technicians are certified by NATE (North American Technician Excellence).

- Is he or she covered? Ask to see a contractor's state and local licenses, liability insurance forms and worker's compensation documents. Be sure documents cover any technicians or subcontractors working for him or her.

- Experience counts. Take the number of years a contractor has been in business into consideration when making your decision. A reputation for quality, reliability and dependability doesn't happen by accident or overnight.

- What about house calls? A good contractor will visit your



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home to make an on-site inspection before making any equipment recommendations. A load calculation should be part of that visit.

- Communication is essential. A good contractor will want to learn what you expect from an HVAC system, as well as any concerns you may have.

- What's on the menu? Research the selection of services a contractor offers. Is scheduled maintenance included? What about repairs? Is the contractor available around the clock?

- Word of mouth counts. Ask for references and check those references. While references often have the greatest impact on a homeowner who is looking for a contractor, they should be considered along with other information gained through your search.

To learn more about selecting a quality HVAC contractor, visit the Web site at www.yorkupg.com or call 1-800-910-YORK.