



How to Find an Unbeatable Contractor for Geothermal Heating, Cooling, and Hot Water Systems





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Make the Switch to Geothermal for a Lifetime of Comfort

The earth naturally captures **close to 50%** of the sun's energy. With GeoComfort's geothermal HVAC systems, you can efficiently recover and replenish that energy year-round, no matter where you live.

Heat and cool your new home, existing residence, or commercial structure for as little as a dollar a day. You can even count on a geothermal unit to keep your pool temperature comfortable, provide domestic hot water, and warm your floors. Or pair your GeoComfort solution with other renewable energies like photovoltaic solar systems — or PV.

If you like the idea of no longer relying on fossil fuels, take advantage of geothermal benefits. This starts with finding and hiring the best installer. Rely on GeoComfort's advice to choose a contractor who can help you make the switch to geothermal and begin enjoying its benefits today.





Tips to Finding a Reliable Geothermal HVAC Installer

Today, Americans are **spending more time in their homes**, and they want to be comfortable — regardless of the season. They also want to know their chosen HVAC system will offer long-term dependability and cost-effectiveness. That's why so many opt for geothermal solutions.

GeoComfort's geothermal heat pump systems can last up to 25 years; the buried ground loop fields stay viable for generations. This makes geothermal HVAC units pragmatic choices for value-minded consumers and builders. However, geothermal systems must be installed by knowledgeable contractors to guarantee superior performance.

Rather than selecting a contractor who quotes a cheap bid, homeowners and builders should vet all potential installers. Contractors without expertise may select inappropriate heating and cooling technology, leading to improperly sized systems. A system that's too large or too small for structural needs typically ends up causing hot and cold spots (in addition to high utility bills).

However, an experienced GeoComfort installer — one who's undergone manufacturer-provided training — has the know-how to skillfully design a geothermal heat pump system that provides comfort in every room.

Exercising upfront diligence lessens the likelihood of delays and budget issues, not to mention financial and legal burdens associated with poorly written contracts and unmet expectations.

Fitting Your Geothermal Needs With the Perfect Contractor for the Job

Selecting a traditional HVAC system installer can feel like searching for a needle in a haystack. Fortunately, finding the perfect local geothermal heat pump contractor is less complicated.

In general, contractors committed to installing geothermal heat pumps place a high value on their services and product offerings. They know they're installing the most environmentally safe and effective HVAC solutions, and with that knowledge comes pride in the work. Consequently, most put an emphasis on learning advanced protocols and staying on top of their craft.

That said, not all geothermal heat pump installers are up-to-date on emerging technologies and practices. Before signing any agreements, ask GeoComfort for the names of up to three local contractors. Then, solicit quotes and customer testimonials.

During your investigation, ask about each installer's certifications. Well-trained geothermal HVAC systems contractors are typically **IGSHPA-certified** and **NATE-certified**. Additionally, they're members of the **Geothermal Exchange Organization** and graduates of their preferred manufacturers' training programs. They should also be in compliance with state, county, and local municipality licensing requirements.

As a premium geothermal systems equipment provider, GeoComfort requests that every installation partner completes our rigorous trainings. Plus, we highly recommend that contractors who offer GeoComfort solutions hold IGSHPA certifications, NATE certifications, and state geothermal organization membership.

After all, our own company is connected with or certified by **AHRI**, the Canadian Standards Association, IGSHPA, GEO, NATE, and **ETL/UL**. We want our contractors to have a similar philosophy of staying abreast of training, trends, and technology.



What to Expect Before a Geothermal System Installation

Most homeowners purchase fewer than two HVAC systems in their lifetimes, particularly if they opt for new-build or retrofit GeoComfort geothermal heat pump solutions. After all, these energy-efficient systems are constructed to last for decades.

Before installing your GeoComfort system, an installer should analyze your equipment and ground loop size needs by performing a heating and cooling load calculation. This calculation considers square-footage, climate, and other factors to determine the proper system size prior to purchase. In the case of a retrofit situation, calculations should not be made based on existing equipment. Many existing HVAC systems are based on outdated or incorrect calculations and would therefore produce incorrect results.

If you plan to build a multi-unit residence or large structure (like a senior-assisted living facility, for example), introduce your preferred geothermal installer with your consulting engineering firm. Together, they can ensure the system's design and layout will dovetail with the heating and cooling needs of the finished project.

After determining a system size that most makes sense, your contractor will discern which type of ground loop field is wisest based on a detailed energy analysis of the home site. GeoComfort systems work with horizontal, vertical, pond, and open loops. All loop options are highly efficient: You'll discover this fully once you examine the detailed annual operating cost projection that accompanies your final system recommendation.

Sample Report



GeoAnalyst® Geothermal System Report

System 1 - Geo System
 New Project
 Example
 Weather Data Location: Abbotsford BC

Heating		Cooling	
Annual Heating Load:	50.5 MMBtu	Annual Cooling Load:	4.1 MMBtu
Electricity (Tetco):	3949 kWh	Electricity (Tetco):	195 kWh
Electricity (Auxiliary):	2 kWh	Average Efficiency:	21.1 Btu/Watt
% by Tetco:	100.0 %	Annual Cost:	\$20
Average Efficiency:	3.75 COP	Estimated Annual Operating Costs Heating: \$395 Cooling: \$20 Hot Water: \$64 Total^{1,2,3} \$479	
Annual Cost:	\$395		
Hot Water			
Annual DHW Load:	5.2 MMBtu		
Electricity:	642 kWh		
% by Geothermal:	65.6 %		
Average Efficiency:	2.38 COP		
Annual Cost:	\$64		

Design Heating Load:	55714 Btu/hr	Design Cooling Load:	21666 Btu/hr
Indoor Design Temperature:	70 °F	Indoor Design Temperature:	75 °F
Outdoor Design Temperature:	-12 °F	Outdoor Design Temperature:	95 °F
Heating Electric Rate:	0.10 \$/kwh	Cooling Electric Rate:	0.10 \$/kwh
Hot Water Electric Rate (Htg):	0.10 \$/kwh	Hot Water Electric Rate (Clg):	0.10 \$/kwh
Winter Peak Electrical Demand:	2.74 kW	Summer Peak Electric Demand:	1.54 kW

System 1 - Geo System

Loop Information

Pond Mat Loop

Pump UP26-99

Entering Water Temperature

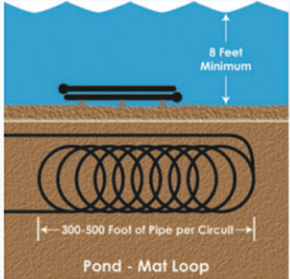
	Desired
Maximum (Summer)	100
Minimum (Winter)	25

Geo Unit

Series

Series

Calculate
Return to Project Page
Help



Pond - Mat Loop

Backup Heating

Electric

ECM Blower is assume for all Geo Units

Hot Water

Electric

DesuperHeater ☒

Analysis

The GeoComfort Difference: Service After the Sale

In this industry, most manufacturers have very little engagement with HVAC contractors and, by proxy, end users. GeoComfort believes in going the extra mile and forming partnerships, not merely making transactions.

GeoComfort continues to work with your local installer long after the sale of your unit. To help your chosen contractor assist you in enjoying years of comfort and performance, we stay in touch for the duration of the relationship. It's this hands-on commitment that separates our team of HVAC experts who have more than 100 years of combined experience.

Whether you have a straightforward, modest installation or require a larger, more complex application, GeoComfort stands with your contractor. Our eagerness to help with every aspect of your unique **project planning process** — from design to installation to maintenance — has allowed us to continue building on our strong reputation.

With a heritage that spans more than 40 years, GeoComfort has produced thousands of geothermal heat pump units. In addition, it has helped countless customers achieve their dreams of energy independence, free from the volatile markets and safety issues related to fossil fuel consumption.

Homeowner quote:

“What made me pick GeoComfort? The installer was really well-known, and he recommended it. In fact, it's the only geothermal system he puts in.”
Mark F. — St. Louis, Missouri

Homeowner quote:

“After researching and comparing the different options for heating/cooling our house, we felt geo was the most cost-effective way in the long run.”
David K. — St. Elizabeth, Illinois



Maintaining Your GeoComfort HVAC System for the Long Run

Forget about hassles: Geothermal heat pumps are easy to maintain because they come to you — ready to perform season after season. During production, we thoroughly evaluate each part of your system at multiple points. Before your GeoComfort unit leaves our manufacturing facility, know that it has been thoroughly tested. Additionally, all certified vendor accessories and parts have passed compatibility evaluations.

For optimal performance, we suggest following your contractor's recommended annual maintenance plan. Additionally, you will need to replace or clean your air filters regularly to maintain top-notch indoor air quality.

The buried ground loop portion of your GeoComfort system will remain in service for decades and require no additional maintenance beyond periodic checks. These checks can be handled during the annual preventive maintenance check from your installer.

Homeowners and multi-unit property managers appreciate being able to rely on their equipment year after year with very little upkeep. Every GeoComfort geothermal heating and cooling solution **comes with a standard warranty** that provides the best protection in our industry. You can purchase other warranty options as well. Your job is to make the right heating and cooling decision for your property. Our job is to educate you in making the best decision when it comes to choosing technology and an installer.

Contact us today for a contractor recommendation or to request more information on our proven Comfort solutions.

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