

Distribution Glossary

Term:	Definition:
Alternating Current (AC)	A type of current where the polarity is perpetually reversing, causing the direction of the flow in a current to reverse at regular intervals.
Air Conditioner	A system that cools air. Air conditioners may also regulate humidity and air quality.
Capacity	HVAC capacity is the output produced by the heating or cooling unit.
Coil	Also called evaporator coil; the coil is connected to the airflow outlet of a furnace. Conditioned refrigerant is circulated through the coil to cool the structure in the summer and heat in the winter. As warm indoor air passes through the indoor or evaporator coil, temperature and humidity are removed creating cooler indoor air. Installing a correctly sized and rated evaporator coil is essential for getting the highest performance and comfort from your central air conditioning or heat pump system.
Ductwork	A complex system of metal or fiberglass tubes (or ducts) that run through a building and are part of a heating and air conditioning system. Essential, ductwork delivers hot or cool air from a furnace or air conditioner to the different areas (or zones) of a building.
Furnace	The major gas fired component in for heating a home that facilitates the combustion of fuel and air to create heat and then circulates it through a home or building.
Heat Exchanger	A device through which heat is transferred to a cold or warm area
Indoor Air Quality	The quality of the air within and around a building or structure. Indoor air quality affects the health, comfort, and well-being of the people in a building.
Radiant Floor	A type of heating system where the floor of a building contains channels or tubes that circulate hot air or water to heat from below.
Refrigerant	The compound (or fluid) used in air conditioners, heat pumps, and refrigerators to transfer heat into or out of a space. Refrigerant boils at a very low temperature, allowing it to exude and absorb heat.
Sick Building Syndrome	symptoms that people in a building experience health issues that appear to be linked to the amount of time spent in the building. People suffering from sick building syndrome do not have a specific illness; however, they may experience headaches, eye, nose, and throat irritation difficulty in concentration, to name a few.
Thermostat	A unit that senses the warmth or coolness of the air in a room and signal a furnace or air conditioner to turn on or off, maintaining a set temperature.
Ventilation	Ventilation brings outdoor air into a building and is used to control indoor air quality by diluting and reducing indoor pollutants. Depending on the ventilation system, it may also control indoor temperature, humidity, and air motion with the goal of improving an indoor environment.
Voltage	The force pushing electrical current along wires and cables.
Zoning	A system of dividing a home, office, or space into different regions to better control the temperature and effectiveness of a heating and cooling system