Firlands Portland Mini Splits

Mini split planning worksheet for Portland homes

For planning a ductless mini split in a Portland, Beaverton, Gresham or Vancouver home. List the rooms, take the photos and bring the same questions to every estimate, so each one answers the same plan.

1. List the rooms

One line per room that needs heating or cooling. Rough sizes from length times width are fine.

- [ ] Which rooms run too hot in summer, too cold in winter, or both
- [ ] Which floor each room is on, and which way its windows face
- [ ] Whether the doors stay closed, which decides if two rooms can share a head
- [ ] What heats the house now: baseboard, wall heaters, a furnace, a boiler or a wood stove
- [ ] Who uses each room, and when: an office by day, bedrooms at night

Room 1: size, floor, problem

Room 2

Room 3

Room 4

Room 5

Heat and cooling now

2. What to photograph

Photos let us give you a range by phone before the visit. Take them in daylight, from far enough back to show the whole wall.

- [ ] Each room from the doorway, including the wall where a head might go
- [ ] The outside walls where an outdoor unit could sit, with the ground in front of them
- [ ] The breaker panel with its hinged door open and the label inside it (leave the cover on)
- [ ] The data plate on any existing furnace, heat pump or mini split
- [ ] The attic hatch and the basement or crawlspace, where lines might run
- [ ] The front of the house, so the street side and front yard show

3. Questions for the estimate

Ask everyone who quotes the same questions and note each answer.

- ☐ Is each head sized from a room-by-room load calculation?
- ☐ What heat does each head put out at our winter design low?
- ☐ Where does each head drain, and does any need a condensate pump?
- ☐ How do the lines reach the outdoor unit, and how are they covered outside?
- ☐ Does the panel have room for the new circuit, or does the service need an upgrade?
- ☐ Will the lines get a nitrogen pressure test and a deep vacuum before the refrigerant is released?
- ☐ What does the price include and leave out: permits, patching, painting, line cover?

Company

Heads and sizes

Price and exclusions

4. Permits and rebates

Check these off before the work starts and as it finishes. A rebate and any later repair both depend on them.

- ☐ A mechanical permit, and an electrical permit for the new circuit, from your city or county
- ☐ The final inspection passed, so the permit is closed
- ☐ Your electric utility: PGE, Pacific Power or Clark Public Utilities
- ☐ The rebate rules, checked before you sign: Energy Trust of Oregon in Oregon, Clark Public Utilities in Clark County
- ☐ The rebate application, signed by the installing contractor and sent before the program deadline
- ☐ The equipment model and serial numbers, and the AHRI certificate
- ☐ The dated invoice, with the pressure test and vacuum readings on paper
- ☐ The warranty registration

General planning information, not an assessment of a particular house. Permit rules and rebate programs change; confirm them with your city or county permit office, Energy Trust of Oregon or Clark Public Utilities.