

What 13 SEER Means To You

Is 13 an unlucky number? Not since 13 SEER became the standard for cooling comfort

Are you getting your money's worth out of your air conditioner? Need an objective measurement—that's where 13 SEER comes in.

Effective January 2006 residential cooling units sold must be 13 SEER or higher. SEER stands for **Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio**, the comparative method used to judge how efficiently your air conditioner performs. It's one way to see if you're getting real value out of the energy dollars you spend. The higher a unit's SEER, the higher your unit's energy efficiency, and the more efficiently your unit uses power. Effective power use means you're getting the best value for your energy dollar.

Does the new 13 SEER requirement mean you have to replace your cooling system now? Certainly not. But when you do decide to replace your cooling unit, install a 13 SEER or higher to get maximum bang for your hard-earned energy buck, because wasted energy means wasted home comfort dollars. SEER is a rule of thumb to let you judge how efficient a unit is.

When you buy an energy-efficient system, keep it at optimum energy performance by having a NATE-certified technician install and regularly service it. NATE certified technicians have proved they know heating and cooling. To find a contractor employing NATE certified technicians, go to the Consumer Contractor Connection at www.natex.org.