

How to install a heat pump?

So, you want to install a heat pump, to help reduce emissions at your home, and potentially to reduce costs for heating, but it is difficult to know where to start, who to talk to or where we can get more information. There is a lot of information out there, some more helpful than others. Here is some advice on where to start...

Do your own research

Although Heat Pumps are still not common in the UK there are people who have been living with heat pumps, providing all the heat and hot water for homes, for some time. **You would not be the first** in your community! Many of these people have been sharing their story online, explaining how they approached installing a heat pump, their experience so far, their lessons learnt and any advice they have for you. So do search for people sharing their story, on independent blogs or on **Youtube**.



Visit a Heat Pump

There may be people in your community that have been through the process, and they may well be willing to talk through their experience. If you are connected to sustainability groups where you live, or have a climate emergency hub, there may well be neighbours who are willing to show you their system. They may be able to share some experience and advice and tell you about the company who installed their heat pump.

There is even a scheme that facilitates visiting a heat pump around the county run by Nesta, have a look at visitaheatpump.com to see if there are any events near you.



Check whether your home is ready

During the heating season, we can imitate heating with a heat pump by turning down the radiator or 'flow' temperature to recreate what we might have with a heat pump. Turn your boiler settings down to a flow temperature of 45°C, and leave your heating on for at least 24 hours. If some of your rooms start to get too cool, this is suggesting that you probably need to upgrade some radiators. More info on 'The Heating Hub' - theheatinghub.co.uk/articles/turn-down-the-boiler-flow-temperature

Find an installer

There will be heating engineers that can install a heat pump in your town, but if you are going to **get a grant (there is £7,500 available through the Boiler Upgrade Scheme)** towards the installation of a heat pump then you will need to use an installer registered with the Microgeneration Certification Scheme. This is the body that helps ensure the quality of installations of renewable energy technology, including heat pumps. MCS has a tool that helps find a registered installer - mcs-certified.com/find-an-installer/. This could be a good place to start, to find installers in your area that could do the work.

MCS

Don't be afraid to ask people in your community who installed their heat pump and whether they would recommend the same installer.

It could be worth getting in touch with one of the big energy companies who are now installing heat pumps, like Octopus Energy, British Gas or Ovo Energy. There are also independent networks of heat pump installers, like 'Heat Geek' who have lists of 'approved' installers and promise high levels of quality (which may come with increased costs). Visit heatgeek.com/find-a-heat-geek/.

Once you have found a few installers, it is probably worth getting a few quotes to compare against each other, at this point, we are comparing the cost of a heat pump quote, but also what an installer is proposing to do. What is the size of the heat pump? How many radiators are they planning to replace? What pipework needs changing? Where would they put a cylinder? If something that is being proposed is very different to another quote, or to what you were thinking, do ask why.

And once you are happy with a quote, **book the installation!**



**7 steps to install
a heat pump**

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