

NorVal

News

NOVEMBER 2024



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★ ★ ★ ★ ★
VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

**The office will be closed
November 11th in
observance of
Veteran's Day!**

Is a Ductless Mini-Split System Right for Your Home?

How would you like a personalized comfort zone within your home? One where the temperature is customized to your liking and may be different than the temperature in the shared living areas or other rooms in the house. This flexibility and customization are precisely why mini-split systems, also known as ductless air-source heat pumps, and their energy efficiency aspects are so popular.

Let's unpack some mini-split basics and explore whether this type of system is a good choice for your home heating and cooling needs.

A mini-split system is a type of HVAC equipment used for heating and cooling, allowing you to control the temperature in individual rooms or spaces. Similar to central heating and cooling, mini-split systems have two main components--an outdoor compressor and an indoor air-handling unit(s). A narrow conduit links the indoor unit(s) to the outdoor compressor.

While central heating and cooling systems feature an indoor unit connected by long lengths of ductwork, mini-splits are typically ductless. This means energy is not lost traveling through long stretches of ductwork. Installing the air-handling unit in a desired room or area enables you to control the temperature more precisely, reducing energy consumption. That's because you're adjusting the temperature to a single room or space rather than the whole home.

Is a mini-split system right for you?

Mini-split systems are a popular option in home additions, or to supplement heating and cooling in a space that may be furthest away from the main living area, such as a finished attic or basement.

In these instances, it may not be feasible to install or extend the ductwork required in traditional central cooling and heating systems.

In contrast, mini-splits are relatively easy to

install requiring a small hole for the conduit connecting the indoor and outdoor units. Most systems can handle up to four indoor rooms or zones connected to one outdoor unit. Each of the zones can be customized because each includes a thermostat that enables you to heat or cool the space as needed, saving energy and money over time.

Cool solutions

Mini-split systems bring additional benefits. They are quiet, improve indoor air quality and are typically easy to install. Many come with remotes to make temperature control even easier, and because of their smaller size, mini-split systems have many placement options for indoor and outdoor units.

One of the greatest benefits of mini-splits is that they typically have a higher SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio) rating than traditional central heating and cooling systems. The higher the unit's SEER rating, the more energy efficient it is.

Additional considerations

However, according to the Department of Energy, "mini-splits cost about \$1,500 to \$2,000 per ton of cooling capacity. That's about 30% more than central systems (not including ductwork) and may cost twice as much as window units of similar capacity."

While the technology is improving and evolving, those in particularly colder climates may need a fuel backup to run a mini-split system. Aesthetics are another factor to consider, as some homeowners don't like the appearance of the indoor units, which are more visible than central air conditioning vents.

If you're considering an upgrade or additional heating and cooling equipment, talk to a qualified technician to learn if a ductless mini-split system could work for your home.

Reminder



NorVal Electric would like to remind our members this winter to please turn on your heat meters if you have one. This will help you reduce the cost of your energy bill during the coldest days of the year.



**We're Grateful
for Your
Membership.**

Our offices will be closed
**Thursday, November 28,
and Friday, November 29,**

Congratulations Ron Reddig Winner of the Hard Ridin' Award!



L to R: Sam Gundermann, Chris Christensen, Rick Molvig, Ron Reddig, Rocky Kittleson, Rick Stahl, Kevin Nelson

The Montana Electric Cooperatives Association's Hard Ridin' Award is presented to a cooperative director or employee who has demonstrated exceptional character and perseverance amidst extraordinary difficulties. Ron Reddig was presented this award at the MECA annual meeting in October. Ron has faced many challenges while serving on the Board for 30 years, including losing his wife in 2021 and facing his own medical issues while caring for his ill wife. Ron started as a Northern Electric board member and continued serving after the merger with Valley Electric. He has also served on the Central MT Electric Power Cooperative board and as a MECA Resolutions committee chairman. Ron is the definition of perseverance and having a positive attitude to carry on in his everyday life even when difficulties happen. Ron will be retiring from the NorVal Electric board this year and we thank him for his years of service and dedication to the coop. We wish him all the best!



**Earn a FREE trip to
Washington
D.C.**

Applications are open for Sophomores and Juniors until December 2, 2024
For more information please visit norval.coop/youthtour

Scholarships Available

Due Date: January 30, 2025

All dependents of members graduating high school in 2025 are eligible to apply for all three of the scholarships available

APPLY NOW

- **Norval Electric**
- **MECA**
- **Basin Electric**



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 For applications visit: norval.coop