

# Ground Source Heat Pump Installation Tips

Installing a ground source heat pump is not very complicated, but neither is it a do-it-yourself job. There are important decisions to make, including system size and design, and it is important to know what works best for a particular home and location.

Finding the right installer is the key to a ground source system's success. Bluestem Electric Cooperative offers these guidelines:

## **Go With A Professional**

Make sure they follow the procedures established by the International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA) to install your system. If you cannot locate a ground source heat pump installer, call Bluestem or the Ground Source Heat Pump Consortium (GHPC) at 1-888-255-4436 and request a list of contractors in your area.

## **Check Training Credentials**

Installers should be accredited by IGSHPA or be able to show equivalent training by manufacturers or other acknowledged authorities at recognized institutions.

## **Ask For References**

Be sure to ask about other homes or communities where the contractor has installed ground source systems. Ask for the names of some of their homeowner customers. Visit or call these references to check customer satisfaction firsthand.

## **Expect A Home Evaluation**

A good contractor should examine your home to make the best recommendation for you. He should check ducts, insulation and other features for energy efficiency.

## **Ask Questions**

Inquire about the contractor's experience installing ground source systems. Question anything you like about the recommendations for your home. Ask if the contractor has installed a ground source system in his or her own home or business.

## **Get Several Cost Estimates**

Talk to two or three contractors, or more. Get a cost estimate in writing. Ask for a breakdown between labor and equipment costs. Be sure you are comparing "apples to apples." If you have any questions, ask the contractor for clarification.

## **Get A Guarantee**

You wouldn't think of buying a system that wasn't backed by a warranty. Ask for a guarantee, in writing, on installation work as well.

## **Insist on a Written Contract**

Be sure to include all terms, including costs and start-stop dates.