

Somerset Chase

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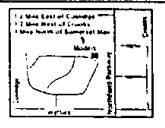


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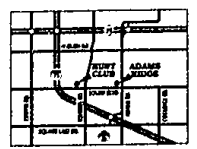
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Heat zoning saves cost, energy

While every house may be a castle to its owner, castles have never known for their indoor air comfort quality. If your house's heating and cooling system is still in the "Dark Ages," a zoning system may be exactly what you need. The total indoor climate control systems available today provide viable ways to keep your home comfortable and save money on monthly utility bills.

In fact, a recent study by The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Research Center reveals that use of a zoning system using back/split strategies can actually save homeowners up to 29 percent in cooling bills and up to 27 percent in heating bills.

How Does a Zoning System Work?

When you walk into your house and turn on the hall light switch, you turn on the light in that area only, not all the lights in the house. A zoned heating and cooling system operates the same way. Zoning directs heated or cooled air only to rooms that require it, at times of day when the rooms are most likely to be occupied. The temperature in the unoccupied space is set back a few degrees in the heat mode or set up a few degrees in cooling mode to save energy and lower operating costs.

"By eliminating pockets of air that are too hot or too cold, a properly designed zoning system with programmable thermostats offers the ultimate in comfort — and can save homeowners up to 29 percent on monthly heating and cooling bills," according to Kim Warren, product manager for Bryant Heating & Cooling Systems, one of the pioneers in this technology.

Before the advent of zoning systems, houses were traditionally zoned by separate equipment. That is, one system for the sleeping quarters and another for the living areas. However, installing and maintaining two systems has proven to be costly and inefficient. In addition, zoning equipment costs little to guarantee comfort. In this scenario, many homeowners end up "zoning by running around" — opening and closing duct registers in each room as needed.

Two Types of Residential Zoning Systems

By comparison, single, fully-integrated zoning systems are more efficient, provide greater comfort and are less costly to install, operate and maintain. For example, Bryant Heating & Cooling Systems offers two variations of single-zoning systems designed for houses of various sizes. The Zone Perfect residential zoning system, for larger houses, consists of a series of controls and duct dampers to accommodate different space requirements in up to four independent zones.

With zoning systems technology designed for larger houses, you can easily set the programmable thermostat in each zone to fit your lifestyle. For instance, if everyone is away during the day Monday through Friday but at home on weekends, the thermostats can be programmed accordingly for maximum efficiency.

Depending on the season, the thermostats set back heating or set up cooling throughout the house during the day, keeping either mode at a lower level when nobody's home. The thermostats then increase heating or cooling at five o'clock in the kitchen and family room so that the desired temperature is reached by the time you arrive at the end of a work or school day.

During the day and early-evening hours, the setting in unused rooms would be maintained at a lower level. When your family returns for the evening, the thermostat automatically increases the level of heating or cooling to the desired comfort level for the bedrooms and sets back in the living areas. On weekends, the pre-programmed thermostat will keep the level of heat or air conditioning during the day only in the zones that are occupied.

For smaller houses, a two-zone system is a good option because it enables homeowners to create two distinct zones of indoor climate control for improved comfort and energy savings. For example, Bryant's Zone Perfect Two-Zone uses a thermostat in each zone to control air flow through a system of ducts and dampers instead of using one thermostat to heat or cool the whole house to the same temperature.

Customizing a two-zone zoning system for your house is easy. Depending on the design of your house and your family's use and schedule, you may choose to designate your living area as one zone and your sleeping area as another. Or, you may opt to establish one zone upstairs and the second downstairs.

The thermostat for each zone sends temperature information to the system's microprocessor-based control center. The brains behind the system, this control center directs the equipment to deliver hot or cold air where it's needed, and, with systems that feature programmable options, when it's needed. Temperature is automatically adjusted as the sun moves during the day, affecting

different rooms. So, for example, in a two-story house, where heat rises, the unit adjusts for hot or cold air on the second floor as needed.

Precision Efficiency

In Bryant's zoning systems, the accuracy of the company's new thermostats further enables the units to maintain desired temperature settings within 1.5 degrees (or three-fourths of a degree above and below the heating or cooling setpoint, resulting in energy savings and lower utility bills. Standard mercury bulb thermostats, by comparison, can have a plus-or-minus three-to-eight-degree differential. For example, a conventional thermostat set to 72 degrees Fahrenheit may allow the temperature to rise to between 76 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit or down to between 64 and 69 degrees Fahrenheit. This causes heating and cooling equipment to cycle on and off, wasting energy and creating homeowner discomfort.

Offering increased comfort and energy conservation, zoning technology is the obvious solution to the indoor climate problems many homeowners face today. Because these systems work in conjunction with a complete indoor air comfort system, including an air conditioner/heat pump, indoor evaporator coil, furnace, humidifier, air clean and thermostats, they are one of many heating/cooling options that can help you live like royalty while saving money on monthly utility bills.

Your air conditioning and heating contractor is the best source of information on zoning systems. To locate your Bryant dealer, look in your Yellow Pages under the "Heating" or "Air Conditioning" section or call 1-800-468-7253.

Recessed lighting enhances decor, efficiency

One of the features that makes a model home so impressive is the lighting, perfectly placed recessed lighting that enhances each room. It shines on important work areas, creates a network and provides the right atmosphere for living areas without adding clutter to the room.

Whether you are custom-building a house, adding a room or totally remodeling a living area, you have an excellent opportunity to design and coordinate the lighting with the interior design.

Here are a few tips from the experts at Juno Lighting Inc., manufacturers of recessed and track lighting, which can help you create beautiful recessed lighting in your home.

- In a living room or bedroom, line the perimeter of the ceiling with recessed downlights to highlight draperies, walls and art and provide general illumination. Recessed lights can be combined with miniature low-voltage string lighting (such as Juno's Trac 12) behind ceiling coves to provide indirect light and visual interest.
- To create dramatic effects on paintings and fireplaces, select recessed downlights with low-voltage spotlights, eyeballs or pinholes. Choose halogen lamps for their efficiency and clear white light which makes furnishings and colors come to life.
- In the bedroom, install two downlights (on separate switches) at the head of the bed. They provide ample illumination for reading.
- Install two or four downlights over the dining room table and add a dimmer, so you can control the amount of light. At a higher level, bright light is useful for setting the table or seating guests. Then, lower the light level to create a casual, relaxed atmosphere.
- Place downlights over counter areas in the kitchen. These will "wash" the cabinets to show off fine wooden doors and illuminate work areas.
- To provide task lighting for a center island in the kitchen, install two or more downlights above the food preparation area. These lights should be on a separate switch from the rest of the room.
- Not all recessed downlights are created equal. Look for the energy-saving Air-Loc fixtures. They can save up to \$5 per fixture per year on your heating and cooling bills.
- Select the downlight trim to match your decor. White baffles complement a white ceiling.

For a free catalog on recessed lighting, contact Juno Lighting Inc., Department MC-Nine, Box 5065, Des Plaines, IL 60017. Or call 708-827-9880.

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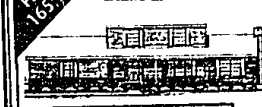


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