

Consumers Digest

MAY/JUNE 2007



Best Buys in Central Air Conditioners

Best Buy Categories:

- [P]=Premium selection;
- [M]=Midrange selection;
- [E]=Economy selection.

Air conditioner Best Buys were selected on the basis of energy efficiency, noise level, features and brand reliability. Prices are strictly for the unit and do not include electrical upgrades, ductwork or installation.

Manufacturers do not publish prices for central-air systems. List prices for central units are based on estimates provided by distributors and dealers.

All central-air Best Buys come in a series of sizes, but the price listed is for a unit with a heating capacity of around 3 tons. All central-air Best Buys use the environmentally friendly R-410a refrigerant.

All air-conditioner Best Buys are Energy Star-listed.

Central air conditioners use a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) rating.

Best Price is a reflection of the lowest retail price available at press time and is subject to change.

Central Air Conditioners

[P] Bryant Evolution 180A

List: \$4,000

This ultra-efficient system provides up to a near industry-high 20 SEER rating, and a two-stage scroll compressor provides quiet operation. Its Evolution Control can control as many as six home-comfort functions, and the control's LED screen provides preventive maintenance reminders and alerts users to pending system problems. It even provides the phone number of a nearby Bryant servicer. A cool option with the control allows you to set temperatures remotely through a telephone or over the Internet.



Bryant Evolution 180A

Features:

- * Output: 18,000 to 60,000 BTU/hr.
- * Peak efficiency: 20 SEER
- * Warranty: 10-yr. compressor; 5-yr. parts and labor

[M] Coleman Echelon 5T

[E] Goodman SSX14