

Zoning Is HVAC's Best Kept Secret



Zoning is a technology that has been around for a long time, yet most homeowners do not know it is an option. Of course, homeowners likely experience zoning every day — just not in their homes.

When you hop into the car for a family trip, you probably adjust the temperature in the driver's seat, while perhaps a significant other has a different temperature set for the passenger's seat. That is zoning, and it can be done in your home.

Each room can be set at its own temperature for specific rooms to stay comfortable. Or, for energy savings purposes, the guest bedroom can stay at a lower/higher temperature until it is being used.

Why do temperature fluctuations happen in a home? Lots of reasons. The main one is where the thermostat is located. If a thermostat is in a hallway downstairs or in the family room where the fireplace is run in the winter, that temperature is going to be a lot different than the far bedroom upstairs. And once the thermostat senses the correct temperature, the furnace will shut off.

Let's say you were going to buy a house and when you did the walk-through, you noticed that all the lights were on one switch. No one would buy that house, right? Now consider that the HVAC equivalent of that is having one thermostat for an entire home. Homes have a light switch for every room. Shouldn't the same should be true for what controls the temperature?

Zoning is an economical retrofit solution that can solve a home's comfort problems. A lot of times, homeowners move into a house and either tolerate or avoid the uncomfortable areas of the home. Plus, it is scientifically proven that people sleep better in cooler rooms. With a thermostat in the bedroom, people will undoubtedly sleep better.

The installation of zoning usually takes less than a day, as the zoning technology is placed into the existing ductwork. There is no maintenance required, and it is not visible to the homeowner. Best of all, it does not require any additional power.

In addition to being installed as a retrofit, zoning can also be included in new construction. While most homebuilders talk to buyers about granite countertops and bathroom fixtures, zoning often goes unmentioned — even though that HVAC technology will go a long way to improve the comfort in their home.

The biggest impediment to zoning technology is often awareness. With winter energy costs predicted to increase up to 50% in some areas of the country, zoning might be a solution to keep those bills in check. Zoning has been proven to cut heating costs by 30%. It also makes a second system, which some larger homes have, unnecessary.

Contact your local HVAC contractor to find out more.