

Performance Tested Comfort Systems (PTCS) and Prescriptive Duct Sealing Homeowner Fact Sheet



PTCS is a regional program that was designed to ensure that duct systems and heat pumps in single family homes will deliver the greatest energy savings possible. The PTCS Program is supported by the Bonneville Power Administration and some northwest public power utilities.

Duct Sealing

Duct Sealing ensures that the air you have paid to heat or cool can travel through your home's ductwork with a minimal amount of leakage. When your ducts are tight, conditioned air is getting to the rooms you occupy, rather than leaking into your crawlspace or attic. Duct sealing is important for both new and currently occupied homes.

Heat Pumps

Heat pumps come in many different efficiency levels. Your utility may offer additional incentives for those that are the most efficient; generally those rated at 9 HSPF and 14 SEER or better. PTCS provides step-by-step support to contractors to ensure that your new heat pump has been commissioned and configured to deliver conditioned air to its greatest potential.

As part of the PTCS Program, contractors must:

- Perform specific calculations to ensure you install the right size heat pump for your home.
- Program the thermostat and heat pump controls to make sure efficiency, comfort and reliability are achieved.
- Adjust the air flow through the heat pump to ensure efficiency, comfort, and reliability are achieved.

Benefits of the PTCS and Prescriptive Programs

These Programs train professional installers across the Pacific Northwest, and provide quality assurance of testing data and installation inspections. Only PTCS and Prescriptive certified contractors can provide qualified duct sealing or heat pump installations.

Certified installations are tracked in the PTCS and Prescriptive online registry. This registry is a regional database that tracks contractor performance over time and produces certificates required for some utility rebates and state tax credits.

Make sure you receive a highly efficient system by hiring a PTCS or Prescriptive Duct Sealing certified contractor.

To learn more, check with your utility.

Your utility can provide information on additional requirements and available incentives.

For more information about requirements for both of these Programs, please reference your utility website or the Program Website at <https://www.bpa.gov/energy-and-services/efficiency/residential/hvac>.