

Consumer Information about the Electrical Installation for Mini-Split Heat Pumps (10/2013)

**Provided by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation,
Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation**

A mini-split heat pump (MSHP) is an electrical appliance capable of providing both heating and cooling. The system transfers the heat energy from outside air into your home through the refrigeration process. MSHPs are highly efficient due to the fact that the primary fuel resource (outside air) is free. The system consists of both an outdoor unit and an indoor unit. The outdoor unit is normally attached to an outside wall on the warm side of the building. Usually the indoor unit is mounted near the top of an outside wall, at a back-to-back location from the outdoor unit. Alternatively, the indoor unit can be located on an inside wall. An installation could consist of multiple indoor units.

This information is provided to inform the consumer about the occupational license that is required by state law for the installation of mini-split heat pumps. The electrical portion of the installation must be performed by a licensed electrician or, through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Electricians' Examining Board and the Maine Fuel Board, a licensed oil burner technician. The person authorized to install the electrical system is permitted to perform the complete installation, not just the electrical installation. A general contractor may install the system components, but is not permitted to perform the wiring.

The following licensees licensed with the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation are permitted to install and wire mini-split heat pumps in the sizes and occupancies listed below:

Any size heat pump in any occupancy*

Master electrician, or Journeyman electrician in the employ of a master electrician
A Limited Electrician in Refrigeration
A Limited Electrician in House Wiring (*limited to one- and two-family dwellings)

Mini-Split heat Pumps rated below 36,000 BTU installed in one- and two-family dwellings, and in existing multifamily dwellings with electric heat

Master electrician, or Journeyman electrician in the employ of a master electrician
Master Oil Burner Technician
Journeyman Oil Burner Technician

A homeowner is permitted to install and wire a heat pump in his/her own single-family dwelling but the homeowner must comply with the requirement of the National Electric Code..

If the system is not factory charged with refrigerant, the installer must also possess a refrigerant handling certification issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA 608 Refrigerant Handling Certification for Small Appliances, or a higher level certification.

Licenses can be verified online at: <http://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions.htm>

Consumer questions should be directed to: Patrick Ouillette, Senior Electrical Inspector
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