13.4 vs. 16.2 SEER2 AC

If you're getting a new air conditioning unit, one of the most critical aspects is its SEER rating. SEER stands for Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio, which measures how efficiently an air conditioner is cooling your house while consuming the least energy. **Installing a new air conditioner in 2023 looks different because SEER2 ratings are the next evolution of SEER ratings for measuring AC efficiency.** The higher the SEER2 rating, the more efficient the air conditioner.

Generally, **HVAC professionals recommend installing a higher-efficiency air conditioner as it will save you money on operating costs in the long run**.

- The difference between SEER and SEER2 ratings
- Why is the minimum SEER2 rating 14.3 in Phoenix
- The energy savings & benefits of 16.2 SEER2 ACs

Difference Between SEER & SEER2 Ratings

The main difference between SEER and SEER2 ratings is how they are tested. **The Department of Energy (DOE) will change testing conditions for HVAC products in 2023 to better match real-world operating conditions** by including ductwork and external static pressure in the calculation.

SEER2 ratings all seem lower than old SEER ratings by 4.5%, but SEER2 air conditioners are all more energy efficient due to more effective testing procedures. Not to mention that federal manufacturing requirements for SEER ratings have increased, which we'll cover in the next section.

All manufacturers must redesign their AC and heat pump systems to meet these new testing requirements starting in 2023, which means all cooling systems will now have a SEER2 rating.

Why Is the Minimum SEER2 Rating 13.4. in Ontario?

Why do some sources list 13.4 as the lowest SEER2 rating, and others say 14.3? This is because **the DOE has different minimum efficiency standards depending on the region**.

Residential central air conditioner purchases and installations in Ontario must have a SEER2 rating of 13.4 which equates to a SEER rating of 15.

The minimum SEER2 requirement for Northern states is 13.4 (equates to a SEER rating of 14) due to homeowners in this region using their air conditioners less.
No matter the state you live in, **any air conditioner you buy and install starting in 2023 will federally be required to be more efficient** than what you could have purchased in 2022.

Energy Savings & Benefits of 16.2 SEER2 ACs

A high-efficiency air conditioner has a SEER2 rating of at least 16.2, which equates to a SEER rating of 17. These high-efficiency ACs tend to cost more upfront to install, but they can save you money on operating costs in the long run.
The savings from a high-SEER2 system will typically pay for the installation cost. **We usually recommend homeowners install a 16.2-SEER system over a 14.3-SEER one if they can afford to do so.** It's best to consult with a trained AC professional to receive a detailed, accurate SEER2 recommendation for your home.

The savings breakdown looks like this:

- $37.24 savings in 1 year
- $186.2 savings in 5 years
- $372.40 savings in 10 years

The below factors can affect your estimated energy savings, such as:

- How often is your AC maintained
- How long you're planning to stay at your home
- The condition of your home's ductwork
- The insulation levels of your home
- What temperatures you set your thermostat to
- And much more

A typical Ontario air conditioner lasts around 10-14 years on average. **If you plan on living in your home for the full 14 years of the AC's life, you will receive your return on investment in a higher-SEER AC.**
Other benefits of a higher-efficiency AC include:

- **Increased home comfort:** High-SEER2 systems have advanced features like a variable-speed blower and a two-stage compressor, which can help maintain even temperatures in your home.
- **A more eco-friendly home:** Since 16.2-SEER2 systems consume less energy, they are more environmentally friendly.