



# Heat Pump Comparison Guide

This resource compares air, water, and ground-source heat pumps to help you choose the best solution for your building, budget, and needs.

## 1. Air Source Heat Pumps

### Optimal For

Mild-to-moderate climates for standard models, retrofits or buildings with limited space, projects needing a fast, cost-effective solution

### Key Features

Transfers heat between indoor and outdoor air, most common and widely available, can provide both heating and cooling, lowest upfront costs

## 2. Water Source Heat Pumps

### Optimal For

Multi-family or commercial buildings with centralized systems, buildings nearby water sources or existing hydronic loops

### Key Features

Exchanges heat with a water loop or nearby water source, often used in closed-loop systems in large buildings, needs steady access to a water source or loop, mid-range upfront costs

## 3. Ground Source Heat Pump

### Optimal For

Long-term investments and deep decarbonization, buildings with access to land or boreholes, projects pursuing maximum energy efficiency

### Key Features

Transfers heat to and from the ground via buried loops, utilizes stable underground temperatures. very efficient year-round, steeper upfront costs

## Winter Weather Concerns?

**Cold Climate Heat Pumps** are generally designed to maintain their full heating capacity in as low as about 5 degrees Fahrenheit.



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