



City of Vancouver *Planning By-law Administration Bulletins*

Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability Department

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AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS FOR GROUND-ORIENTED DWELLINGS

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The purpose of this bulletin is to provide clarification regarding the criteria and process for installing air-source heat pumps in existing ground-oriented dwellings. For units located on balconies in multi-family buildings, please refer to:
<https://bylaws.vancouver.ca/Bulletin/A012.pdf>

1 Replacing the Current System

Please note you will be required to obtain a gas permit to decommission your gas appliance (furnace, hot water heater or boiler).

Please note you will be required to obtain a plumbing permit to replace your boiler or hot water tank.

2 Ground-Mounted Air Source Heat Pump Applications

For your heat pump installation, you are responsible for:

(a) Locating the mechanical unit beyond the required front or side yard setbacks. Ideally the unit is placed in the REAR yard, as far from the property lines as possible, in a place least visible/audible to neighbours (or as otherwise determined by the Director of Planning).

i.If placing the unit in the side or front yards please see Enquiry Centre for conditional approval.

(b) Ensuring the mechanical unit conforms to Vancouver Noise Control By-law No. 6555 sections 5(a) and 5(b).

(c) Submitting an Acceptance/Clearance Letter from Strata Council or the other unit owner(s) if you live in a strata-titled building or duplex/triplex/etc.

(d) Obtaining an electrical permit from the Development and Building Services Centre or

online.

- (e) Ensuring the mechanical unit is installed and maintained as per the manufacturer's instructions.
- (f) Failure to install the unit in an acceptable location will result in failure of electrical inspection, and will require relocation of unit to acceptable location.

3 Wall-Mounted Air Source Heat Pump Applications

Contact the Development and Building Services Centre if you are installing a wall-mounted air-source heat pump. Most wall-mounted applications will require a review of site location and possible impact on the appearance of the building. A combined Development and Building Permit from the Development and Building Services Centre; in addition to the electrical permit, may be required.

4 Siting an Air Source Heat Pump

