How to Choose a Quality Geothermal Contractor

Choosing a geothermal heating and cooling system for your home may be the most important comfort decision you make as a homeowner. HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative wants you to be happy with your decision. This comparison checklist will help you choose the best contractor for the job.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEALER 1:</th>
<th>DEALER 2:</th>
<th>DEALER 3:</th>
<th>DEALER 1</th>
<th>DEALER 2</th>
<th>DEALER 3</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dealer has demonstrated experience:</td>
<td>Has installed more than 20 geothermal systems.</td>
<td>□</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Has been in business for more than five years.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Provided a list of references (make sure to check references!).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dealer is certified and trained in:</td>
<td>Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) Manual J and Manual D.</td>
<td>□</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Loop design and installation.</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dealer is a member of:</td>
<td>An industry group, such as the Michigan Geothermal Energy Association.</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Better Business Bureau, in good standing.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Has a state Mechanical License.</td>
<td>□</td>
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<td>Dealer:</td>
<td>Performed a heat loss / heat gain calculation to size the equipment.</td>
<td>□</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Designed the system to maintain a minimum indoor temperature of 70°F when the outdoor temperature is 0°F (winter heating).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Designed the system to maintain a maximum indoor temperature of 75°F when the outdoor temperature is 95°F (summer cooling).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Designed system to maintain (without auxiliary heat) an indoor temperature of 72°F when outdoor temperature is between 0°F and 10°F.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Provided an estimate of the annual operating costs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Asked about your future plans for additions or remodeling.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Provides a 24-hour emergency service.</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dealer discussed the following topics:</td>
<td>Advantages and disadvantages of open- and closed-loop systems.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Importance of sizing the well, pump, and tank on an open-loop system.</td>
<td>□</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Location of the closed-loop system.</td>
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<td>Air changes per hour, insulation, and minimizing air infiltration.</td>
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<td>Importance of proper duct design.</td>
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<td>Importance of properly balancing the system.</td>
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<td>Operation and maintenance of the system.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Manufacturer warranty.</td>
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<td>Dealer warranty.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Utility programs and energy rates.</td>
<td>□</td>
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<td>Additional costs (electrical upgrade, landscaping, etc.)</td>
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<td>Financing options.</td>
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</table>

TOTAL BOXES CHECKED