[COMMERCIAL HVAC](https://aristair.com/blog/category/commercial-hvac), [RESIDENTIAL HVAC](https://aristair.com/blog/category/residential-hvac)

[Split System Heat Pump Use in a Cold Climate](https://aristair.com/blog/split-system-heat-pump-use-in-cold-climate/)

If you’re in a colder climate and researching HVAC replacement systems, you may have learned about the split system heat pump for the first time.

In milder climates, heat pumps are a very common go-to HVAC solution because they provide both heating and cooling. And, heat pumps cost quite a bit less to operate than a split system air conditioner plus a separate heating system (such as a gas or oil furnace).

Heat pumps are less popular in colder climates because they lose some of that efficiency when temperatures get very cold for extended periods of time. That’s why, here in the New York City area, many people have never heard of a heat pump.

However, that’s changing because heat pump use in a cold climate is catching on due to improved technology and rising utility rates.

Can you really use a heat pump in cold climates? Let’s examine the advantages and risks to help you make the best choice.

Why people are considering using a split system heat pump even in cold climates

Because cold-climate [heat pump technology](https://www.nrdc.org/experts/merrian-borgeson/driving-market-heat-pumps-northeast) has improved, more homeowners and businesses are choosing a heat pump in the Northeast and other areas where the temperatures drop below freezing (and WELL below freezing).

But why might you want to do that? Here are 3 reasons:

LOWER YOUR ENERGY BILLS. Heat pumps use less energy than air conditioners and furnaces. That means lower utility bills for you (an average home can save as much as $1000 per year). In fact, [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/heat-pump-systems/air-source-heat-pumps) says a heat pump can deliver as much as 3 times more heat energy to a space than the electrical energy it uses.

CUT DOWN ON REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES. When you use a heat pump for both heat and air conditioning, there’s only one system to maintain, and one system to diagnose and repair if anything goes wrong. (Check out this related article about [heat pump troubleshooting](https://aristair.com/blog/heat-pump-troubleshooting-3-common-problems-and-solutions/).)

GET EARTH-FRIENDLY HEATING. Heat pumps are more environmentally friendly than gas, oil or propane heat because they don’t need to consume any fossil fuels to produce heat.

Learn more: [What is a heat pump and how does it work?](https://aristair.com/blog/what-is-a-heat-pump-and-how-does-it-work/)

You can save money using a split system heat pump, even in the Northeast and other cold climate parts of the country.

TIP: There’s an HVAC heat pump tax credit for 2018 that can save you thousands if you install by the end of the year.

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