



Do I Need a Permit to Install New HVAC System?

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Yes, and there seems to be a growing trend of licensed HVAC contractors violating state law by insisting that a permit is not required to install a new HVAC system. Recently some states have set up sting operations to catch these HVAC contractors. These stings invited HVAC contractors to bid on jobs and asked if a permit was needed, surprisingly as much as 40% of these contractors told undercover investigators that a permit was not needed, despite this being wrong and illegal.

Reasons why a permit is required:

1. **It is the law.** You are required by law to have a permit for the HVAC work done in your home. The HVAC contractor is required to be licensed by the state of Georgia.
2. **It helps ensure your HVAC system stays in good working order.** A permit ensures that your new HVAC system will have inspections to ensure it was installed properly and that it meets all current legislation, including the State Energy Conservation Code and the Home Energy Rating System (HERS) requirements.
3. **It could get your insurance policy cancelled.** A homeowner's insurance policy could be cancelled if their insurance company finds that work was done on the property without a permit.
4. **You shouldn't use dishonest tradesman.** Typically if an HVAC contractor tells you a permit is not needed, they either don't know (which is unlikely) or they are being untruthful. If the contractor is simply misinformed and doesn't know the law regarding HVAC installations, then they should not be trusted to correctly do work on your HVAC system.

Here are some tips to follow before hiring anyone to work on your home or property:

1. Hire only licensed contractors and ask to see their license and a photo ID to verify their identity.
2. Get at least 3 bids.
3. Get 3 references.
4. Get it in writing, but before you sign the contract, make sure you understand it completely.
5. Do not make final payment until you have received a Certificate of Occupancy or Certificate of Completion and you are satisfied.
6. **Have the contractor apply for the required permits.**

For questions, contact the Building Department Help Line at 470-395-7027 or send an email to Ringo McCollum at rmccollum@peachtreecornersga.gov