



## How to Choose a Quality Geothermal Contractor

*Choosing a heating and cooling system for your home may be the most important “comfort” decision of your home-owning experience.*

Geothermal heating and cooling systems are considered the most efficient, comfortable systems on the market.

**EarthComfort.com** wants you to be happy with your decision. This comparison checklist will help you choose the best contractor for the job.

After all, it’s a decision you and your family will live with for a long time.

DEALER #1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 DEALER #2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 DEALER #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:	#1	Dealer #2	#3
• Dealer has installed more than 20 geothermal systems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Dealer has been in business for more than five years.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Provided a list of references (Make sure to check references!)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>THE DEALER IS CERTIFICATED AND TRAINED IN:</b>			
• ACCA Manual J and Manual D.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• International Ground Source Heat Pump Assoc (IGSHPA).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Loop design and Installation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>THE DEALER IS A MEMBER OF:</b>			
• An industry group, such as the Michigan Geothermal Energy Assoc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• The Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• The International Ground Source Heat Pump Assoc. (IGSHPA).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Better Business Bureau, in good standing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Has a state Mechanical License.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>THE DEALER:</b>			
• Performed a heat loss/heat gain calculation to size the equipment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Designed the system to maintain a minimum indoor temperature of 70° when the outdoor temperature is 0° (winter heating).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Designed the system to maintain a maximum indoor temperature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- of 75° when the outdoor temperature is 95° (summer cooling).
- Designed system to maintain (without auxiliary heat) an indoor temperature of 72° when outdoor temperature is between 0° to 10°.
- Provided you an estimate of the annual operating costs.
- Asked you about your future plans for additions or remodeling.
- Provides 24-hour emergency service.

**THE DEALER DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS WITH YOU:**

- Advantages and disadvantages of open- and closed-loop systems.
- The importance of sizing the well, pump, and tank on an open-loop system.
- The location of the closed-loop system.
- Air changes per hour, insulation, and minimizing air infiltration.
- The importance of proper duct design.
- The importance of properly balancing the system.
- The operation and maintenance of the system.
- The manufacturer’s and dealer’s warranties.
- Utility programs and energy rates.
- Additional costs (electrical upgrade, landscaping, etc.).
- Financing options.

**TOTAL BOXES CHECKED**

We hope this checklist helps you in selecting a quality geothermal contractor.