

How to Choose a Quality Geothermal Contractor



Geothermal heating and cooling systems have proven to be the most efficient, comfortable systems on the market. However, if you choose the wrong contractor you may not reap all the benefits of a geothermal system due to improper design, sizing, or installation.

We want you to be completely satisfied with your decision. This comparison checklist will help you choose the best contractor for the job!

Contractor #1: _____

Contractor #2: _____

Contractor #3: _____

Check all that apply:

	Contractor		
	#1	#2	#3
CONTRACTOR EXPERIENCE			
• Contractor has previously installed geothermal systems. (How many?)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Contractor has been in business for more than three years.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Contractor has provided a list of references. (Check them!)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Contractor is in good standing with the Better Business Bureau.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION & TRAINING			
• Nationally-accepted heat loss/gain calculations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Nationally-accepted duct design and installation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Loop design and installation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Fusion welding certified.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Certified by the manufacturer of heat pumps being sold.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Contractor is licensed to or subcontractors with a contractor licensed to construct vertical heat exchange boreholes (Applies > 4/1/15).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONTRACTOR MEMBERSHIPS			
• Wisconsin Geothermal Association	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• GeoExchange	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• International Ground Source Heat Pump Association	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Other HVAC/Business Associations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONTRACTOR BUSINESS CREDENTIALS/PRACTICES			
• Has state-required licenses, registrations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Has bonding and general liability insurance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Has Worker's Compensation insurance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Provides 24-hour emergency service.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Provided you with a firm price and a detailed proposal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SYSTEM DESIGN

- Performed a heat loss/gain calculation to size the equipment.
- Performed the proper steps for sizing the heat pump and loop field to the heating and cooling needs of the home.
- Designed the system to maintain a minimum indoor temperature of 68 degrees (F) at the proper outdoor design temperature for Wisconsin.
- Designed the system to maintain a maximum indoor temperature of 78 degrees (F) at the proper outdoor design temperature for Wisconsin.
- Provided you with an estimate of the annual operating costs.
- Asked you about your future plans for additions or remodeling.
- Contractor has addressed the loop design minimum entering water temperature.

CONTACTOR HAS DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS WITH YOU:

- Advantages and disadvantages of open and closed loop systems.
- The importance of sizing the well, pump, and pressure tank of an open loop system as well as the importance of the quality of the water.
- The location of the closed loop system and entry/exit of the home.
- The insulating factors of the home and minimizing air infiltration.
- Any current issues your home may have with comfort, airflow, etc.
- The importance of air quality, filtration, and ventilation.
- The importance of proper duct design and sizing.
- The importance of a properly balanced system.
- The operation and maintenance of the system.
- The manufacturer's and contractor's warranties.
- Utility/Government programs, incentives, and energy rates.
- Additional costs if not all included (electrical, landscaping, etc.).
- Other potential uses for your geothermal system.
- What will be the best options and sizing of any supplemental heat source for the geothermal system (if proposed and/or needed).

Total number of points per contractor = _____

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For a listing of contractors near you, visit us at: www.wisgeo.org.