



AIR 2 AIR HEAT PUMPS

by Andy Blackwell, A1 Perfect Plumbing Ltd

The latest grant scheme announced by the government is £2,500 towards the costs of an air-to-air heat pump!

So, what on earth are A2AHPs? Well, in the summer they are very efficient air-conditioning units, and in the winter they're very efficient warm-air blowers that will heat up your home. Best of both worlds, is the phrase that comes to my mind.

They work just like a traditional AC Unit; there's a fairly large fan, mounted high on a wall in the room, and it blows out air; cool in the summer, hot in the winter. Simple!

Of course there are things to consider. Firstly, like all heat sources, you need to work out what your home's heat loss is, and then try to get that as low as is practicable. The first step along that journey is to get an

Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) for your home. You need these if you're selling your home, and most high efficiency heating solutions will usually ask to see one as the first phase of working out your heating needs. As such, there are a lot of people offering this service, so it doesn't take too long to sort out.

To get the grant you'll have to go through an MCS accredited contractor. Again, there are lots of these around, but you should always bear in mind that being accredited does not mean they are actually any good at the job, it just means they are very good at the paperwork. In an ideal world

this would mean the same thing, but sadly there are many companies that just spring up out of nowhere whenever the government announces a grant scheme and disappear just as quickly as soon as a problem arises. So, always check how long the company has been established in that industry, and get references!

Will A2A work for you? As a way of cooling down one or more rooms in your home? Yes, they'll probably work for everyone. As a way to heat up your entire home? Well, that's a bit more open for debate and depends on things like what heating system you currently have and the size of your home.