

BestDIYMiniSplits.com Releases Updated Best DIY Mini Split Rankings

Recently released rankings from Best DIY Mini Splits listed Zone Air's DIY as the best DIY mini split in the true DIY tier.

SALT LAKE CITY, UT, UNITED STATES, July 15, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Recently released rankings from BestDIYMiniSplits.com (Best DIY Mini Splits) lists Zone Air's DIY Series as the best DIY mini split in the true DIY tier. This comes as a surprise to many as it's the first time the editorial magazine has ranked a new brand in the last 5 years. Long time award winner MrCool was ousted in favor of the new king of DIY HVAC Zone Air. Zone Air DIY Series units ship with pre-charged R-454B line sets and quick-connect fittings. Units are available in 9,000–36,000 BTU sizes, up to 24 SEER2, heat to –13°F, and prices from under \$2,000 for a single zone to about \$4,000+ for multi-zone.



Best DIY Mini Split Featured: Zone Air DIY

[Best DIY Mini Splits Full Rankings](#)

1. Zone Air: Pre-charged quick-connect, R-454B, up to 24 SEER2, –13°F, 5-yr parts / 7-yr comp, true DIY
2. MRCOOL DIY 5th Gen: Pre-charged quick-connect, R-454B, 23.6 SEER2, –13°F, 5-yr parts / 7-yr comp, true DIY
3. Senville: Traditional flare, R-410A / R-32 (vacuum needed)
4. Pioneer: Traditional flare, R-410A / R-32 (vacuum needed)

Specs are manufacturer-published as of July 2026 and subject to change, verify current listings. Brands are trademarks of their owners.

Summarizing the Top Picks

1. Zone Air — best efficiency and value. Up to 24 SEER2, pre-charged R-454B, heat to -13°F , a 115V plug-in option on smaller units, from about \$1,899. The pick for low running cost or a cold-climate weekend install.
 2. Senville — budget, widely available. Cheaper up front and easy to find online, but standard units use flare connections, so plan on a vacuum pump. Not truly DIY.
 3. MRCOOL DIY 5th Gen — the established default. Pre-charged R-454B, ~ 23.6 SEER2, operates to -13°F (Hyper Heat to $\sim -22^{\circ}\text{F}$), 5-yr parts / 7-yr compressor, US-based support, stocked at Home Depot. The most-installed, easiest-to-source DIY system.
 4. Pioneer — budget, sometimes marketed DIY. Flare installs, and a 5-year warranty that needs registration within 90 days (otherwise one year, parts only).
- Others worth knowing. Della, Klimaire, Airspool, Cooper & Hunter, and EG4 fill the budget field — mostly flare installs, so check each listing. Premium names like Mitsubishi and Daikin are the most reliable but aren't DIY; they need professional installation.

How to Size a DIY Mini Split

Sizing matters more than brand. Undersized units run nonstop; oversized units short-cycle and won't pull humidity. A baseline for 8 ft ceilings in a 4-season climate:

- 9,000 BTU — up to ~ 450 sq ft: bedroom or office (single-zone)
- 12,000 BTU — ~ 450 – 600 sq ft: living room or finished basement (single-zone)
- 18,000 BTU — ~ 600 – 900 sq ft: large room or workshop (largest single-zone)
- 24,000 BTU — ~ 900 – $1,200$ sq ft: two rooms (multi-zone, dual)
- 30,000 BTU — $\sim 1,200$ – $1,500$ sq ft: two large rooms (multi-zone, dual)
- 36,000 BTU — $\sim 1,500$ – $1,800$ sq ft: three rooms (multi-zone, 3-zone)

Add 15–20% for vaulted ceilings, and bump up for poor insulation, big sun-facing windows, or kitchens. Over ~ 900 sq ft or more than one room, a multi-zone system — one condenser feeding several heads with independent control — beats one oversized head pushing air down a hallway.

What a DIY Install Involves

Most true-DIY systems go in over a weekend (4–8 hours the first time): mount the indoor head, drill a 2.5–3" pass-through, set the condenser, hand-tighten the pre-charged line set, run the cables, open the valves, and power up. The dedicated 115V or 230V circuit is the step most likely to need a licensed electrician; doing the rest yourself is where the \$3,000–\$5,000-per-zone savings come from. A quality unit lasts 15–20 years — rinse the filters every 4–8 weeks, keep the drain clear, and wash the outdoor coil yearly.

FAQ

What are the best DIY mini splits in 2026? MRCOOL's DIY 5th Gen and Zone Air lead the true-DIY tier with pre-charged R-454B and quick-connect fittings (no vacuum pump). Senville and Pioneer are cheaper but need one.

What is the best DIY mini split brand? MRCOOL is the most established; Zone Air stands out on efficiency (up to 24 SEER2), a 115V option, and price (from ~\$1,899). Both carry a 5-yr parts / 7-yr compressor warranty.

Can you install a mini split without a vacuum pump? Yes, if it's pre-charged. MRCOOL DIY and Zone Air seal the refrigerant in quick-connect fittings, so no vacuum or EPA 608 license is needed. Flare units (Senville, Pioneer) still require a pump.

What size DIY mini split do I need? Roughly 9,000 BTU up to ~450 sq ft, 12,000 for ~450–600, 18,000 for ~600–900, and a multi-zone 24,000–36,000 BTU system for 900–1,800 sq ft or multiple rooms.

How much does a DIY mini split cost? A single-zone kit runs from under \$2,000; multi-zone bundles reach about \$4,000+. Installing it yourself skips \$3,000–\$5,000 per zone in labor.

Bottom Line

This year, additional research is likely needed if you're choosing a new DIY mini split system. If you need any additional details on specs or reviews, Best DIY Mini Splits is here to help.

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