

Zone Air Named Best 2-Zone DIY Mini Split for 2026 by HVAC Insider

Recognition highlights Zone Air's growing presence in the DIY mini split market, with high efficiency systems and pre-charged quick-connect DIY installation.

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, August 13, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Zone Air's [Dual Zone DIY Mini Split Systems](#) have been named the Best 2-Zone [DIY Mini Split](#) for 2026, highlighting the company's growing presence in the rapidly expanding DIY heating and cooling market.



Dual zone DIY mini split indoor unit

The recognition focuses on Zone Air's dual-zone DIY systems, which connect two independently controlled indoor units to a single outdoor condenser. The systems are designed for homeowners who want to heat and cool multiple rooms without traditional ductwork or professional installation costs.

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Ben Liddel

Zone Air's dual-zone lineup includes configurations from 18,000 to 30,000 BTUs, with wall-mounted models reaching up to 24 SEER2. The company also offers ceiling cassette and concealed ducted options.

A Simpler Approach to Multi-Zone Comfort

A 2-zone mini split uses one outdoor condenser to serve two indoor air handlers. Each indoor unit can be controlled independently, allowing different rooms to maintain different temperatures.

This setup is useful when two rooms have different heating and cooling requirements. A bedroom, office, addition, or living area can be conditioned without requiring the entire home to be heated or cooled at the same time.

Because mini splits deliver conditioned air directly into individual spaces, they also eliminate the ductwork used by conventional central air systems. For homes without existing ducts—or where extending ductwork would be expensive or disruptive—a ductless system can provide an alternative.

Designed for DIY Installation

A major distinction of Zone Air's systems is the use of factory-charged refrigerant lines with [quick-connect fittings](#).

Traditional mini split installations can require specialized equipment and procedures, including field flaring and evacuating the refrigerant circuit. Zone Air's pre-charged design is intended to simplify those steps for homeowners.

For homeowners comfortable with basic installation work, this can reduce project complexity and save on labor costs.

DIY installation does not eliminate local building and electrical requirements. Depending on the jurisdiction, homeowners may still need permits or professional assistance with portions of the electrical installation.

High-Efficiency Options

Energy efficiency is another key feature of Zone Air's dual-zone lineup.

The company's wall-mounted systems offer efficiency ratings of up to 24 SEER2, giving homeowners a high-efficiency option for heating and cooling.

Current configurations include 9K + 9K, 12K + 9K, 12K + 12K, and 12K + 18K wall-mounted systems, ranging from 18,000 to 30,000 BTUs. Wall-mounted models are priced from \$3,499 to \$3,999. Ceiling cassette and concealed ducted configurations are also available.

Actual requirements depend on insulation, ceiling height, window exposure, sunlight, and climate. Zone Air recommends selecting capacity based on each room rather than relying solely on square footage.

Built for Cold-Weather Heating

Zone Air's systems are designed to provide heating as well as cooling, with operation rated down to -13°F.

That makes them an option for homeowners looking for year-round heating and cooling from one system. The company's systems use R-454B refrigerant, a lower-global-warming-potential

refrigerant used in newer HVAC equipment.

Zone Air provides a seven-year compressor warranty and five-year parts warranty for its systems, with coverage supporting homeowner installation when the system is installed according to manufacturer requirements.

Multiple Indoor Unit Styles

Zone Air offers three indoor unit configurations across its dual-zone lineup: wall-mounted, ceiling cassette, and concealed ducted.

Wall-mounted units are suited to bedrooms, offices, living spaces, and other conventional applications. Ceiling cassettes distribute air from the ceiling and can be useful when wall space is limited.

Concealed ducted units provide another option for homeowners who want indoor equipment hidden within a ceiling or other concealed space.

Comparing DIY and Traditional Options

The dual-zone market includes manufacturers focused specifically on DIY installation as well as established HVAC brands that primarily rely on professional installation.

MRCOOL is well known for its DIY mini split systems, while Mitsubishi and other established manufacturers have built reputations around efficiency, reliability, and professionally installed equipment.

Zone Air's approach combines pre-charged quick-connect installation with high-efficiency options and cold-weather heating capabilities.

For homeowners comparing systems, installation requirements, warranty coverage, efficiency, heating performance, and total cost are important factors. Multi-zone efficiency ratings should also be evaluated using the specific indoor and outdoor unit combination being considered.

Installation Considerations

Although Zone Air systems are designed to simplify installation, homeowners should plan carefully before beginning.

Most dual-zone systems require a dedicated 208–230V electrical circuit, and local regulations may require permits or a licensed electrician for portions of the work.

Indoor units should be positioned to provide effective airflow while keeping refrigerant line runs

practical. The outdoor condenser also requires sufficient clearance for airflow and should be installed on an appropriate pad or mounting system.

Proper sizing is equally important. A room with large windows and significant afternoon sun may have different heating and cooling requirements from a similarly sized room with limited exterior exposure.

A Growing DIY HVAC Market

Interest in DIY mini splits reflects demand from homeowners seeking greater control over HVAC projects and installation costs.

Central air remains effective for many homes, but installing or extending ductwork can be expensive and disruptive. Window units provide another option for individual rooms but offer a less permanent installation.

Ductless mini splits provide a middle ground, delivering dedicated heating and cooling without traditional ductwork. Multi-zone systems extend that flexibility by allowing multiple rooms to share one outdoor condenser.

For homeowners comfortable taking on part of the installation themselves, a pre-charged system can further reduce overall project costs.

Zone Air's recognition by HVAC on Sale adds to the company's visibility in the DIY mini split category. MiniSplitReview.com also named Zone Air its "Best Overall DIY Mini Split Brand" in its 2025-2026 rankings.

With wall-mounted, ceiling cassette, and concealed ducted options, Zone Air's dual-zone lineup gives homeowners multiple approaches to multi-room heating and cooling.

More information about Zone Air's dual-zone systems, installation resources, and available configurations is available through the company's website.

About

Zone Air is arguably the most established DIY mini split brands specializing in heating and cooling systems designed to give homeowners greater flexibility in how they heat and cool their homes. Its product lineup includes DIY mini split systems featuring pre-charged refrigerant lines, multiple indoor unit configurations, high-efficiency options, and cold-climate heating capabilities.

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