



Super Brothers Plumbing Heating & Air Highlights What SB222 Could Mean for Homeowners Considering Heat Pump HVAC Upgrade

Sacramento-area HVAC company explains how proposed changes to California's heat pump permitting process could make future heating and cooling upgrades simpler

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As California continues looking for ways to expand access to energy-efficient home heating and cooling, Super Brothers Plumbing Heating & Air is helping Sacramento-area homeowners understand what recently passed Senate Bill 222 could mean for those considering a heat pump HVAC upgrade.

The California Legislature passed SB 222, authored by State Senator Scott Wiener, on August 25. The measure is now awaiting action by the Governor.

If signed into law, SB 222 would establish new statewide requirements intended to simplify and standardize portions of the permitting and inspection process for residential heat pump HVAC systems and heat pump water heaters.

For homeowners, the legislation could eventually mean a more predictable process when replacing certain traditional heating and cooling equipment with heat pump technology.

"Homeowners are hearing more and more about heat pumps, but many still have questions about what they are, whether they make sense for their home, and what is involved in making the switch," said Val, Foreman of Super Brothers Plumbing Heating & Air. "Our role is to help homeowners understand their options and make sure the system they choose is properly designed and installed for their home."

One System for Heating and Cooling

Unlike a traditional setup that may rely on a separate air conditioner and gas furnace, a heat pump can provide both heating and cooling from a single system.

During warmer months, a heat pump moves heat out of the home to provide cooling. When

temperatures drop, the process reverses to provide heating.

For Sacramento-area homeowners who experience both intense summer temperatures and cooler winter conditions, that dual functionality can make heat pumps an option worth considering when an older HVAC system reaches the end of its useful life.

Super Brothers Plumbing Heating & Air says homeowners should evaluate more than simply the price of the equipment when considering an HVAC replacement.

The size and layout of the home, existing ductwork, electrical capacity, insulation, current equipment and household comfort needs can all influence which type and size of system is appropriate.

SB 222 Focuses on Reducing Permitting Obstacles

Among its provisions, SB 222 would move California toward a more standardized process for qualifying residential heat pump installations.

The legislation calls for asynchronous inspection options beginning in 2027 and, for many jurisdictions, an online automated permitting process by July 2028 for qualifying heat pump replacements.

Certain straightforward replacement projects could eventually qualify for permits issued electronically in real time to licensed contractors when specified requirements are met.

The legislation also generally limits permit fees to \$200 for a residential heat pump HVAC system and \$150 for a [residential heat pump water heater](#), although jurisdictions may establish higher fees under specific circumstances and with supporting findings.

For qualifying HVAC replacements using the automated permitting process, licensed contractors would also be required to certify that an appropriate load calculation was performed to properly size the new equipment.

That requirement highlights an important consideration for homeowners, according to Super Brothers: replacing an HVAC system is not simply a matter of choosing a larger or newer unit.

“Proper sizing is one of the most important parts of an HVAC installation,” said Josh. “A homeowner wants a system that matches the needs of the house. The goal should be reliable comfort, efficient operation and equipment that is installed correctly from the beginning.”

What [Sacramento Homeowners](#) Should Consider Before Switching

Super Brothers Plumbing Heating & Air encourages homeowners considering a heat pump or other HVAC replacement to begin by having their existing home comfort system evaluated.

An HVAC professional can look at the condition and age of existing equipment, airflow, ductwork, electrical requirements, heating and cooling needs and other factors before recommending whether a heat pump, traditional system or another solution is appropriate.

Homeowners with an aging air conditioner or furnace may particularly benefit from discussing their options before an emergency breakdown forces a quick replacement decision.

The company also cautions that SB 222 has passed the Legislature but is not yet law, and many of the permitting changes contained in the bill would take effect at future dates if the measure is signed.

Still, Super Brothers believes the legislation reflects a broader shift in how California homeowners may approach heating and cooling upgrades in the years ahead.

“As heat pump technology becomes more common, homeowners are going to have more choices,” said Val. “The important thing is understanding what works for your particular home rather than assuming there is one solution for everybody.”

About Super Brothers Plumbing Heating & Air

Super Brothers Plumbing Heating & Air CSLB# 986303, provides residential plumbing, heating, air-conditioning and home comfort services to homeowners throughout the Sacramento & San Jose areas. The company assists homeowners with HVAC repairs, maintenance, system replacements, installations and [energy-efficient home comfort solutions](#), with an emphasis on professional workmanship and helping customers understand their options before making major home improvements.

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