

AC Installation Cost in Coral Springs (2026): What Homeowners Really Pay

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Direct Answer

A new central AC installation in Coral Springs costs \$6,500 to \$13,000 for most 3-to-4-ton residential systems in 2026, with the full range running \$5,500 to \$15,000+ when ductwork, brand tier, and high-efficiency upgrades are factored in. Broward County permits and FPL's \$200 instant rebate are typically bundled into the licensed contractor's quote.

TL;DR

- Typical 2026 Coral Springs AC install: **\$8,000 to \$13,000** for a 3-to-4-ton system, fully installed
- Florida's SEER2 minimum is **14.3** for split systems under 45,000 BTU; FPL's \$200 rebate requires **15.2 SEER2**
- The **federal 25C tax credit expired December 31, 2025**. Equipment placed in service in 2026 does not qualify
- **R-454B and R-32** are the new refrigerant baseline as of January 1, 2026, adding roughly 5 to 10% to equipment cost
- Ductwork repair or replacement is the single biggest hidden cost: **\$1,500 to \$4,000** on top of the system price

One liner: A fair Coral Springs AC installation quote in 2026 includes a Manual J load calc, the right SEER2 rating for your home, a Broward County permit, FPL rebate processing where applicable, and a written line-item breakdown.

Stats Box (2026 Coral Springs)

Stat	Value	Source / Year
Typical 3-to-4-ton install range	\$8,000 to \$13,000	HVAC Services Pro, 2026 [3]
Full range across system types and sizes	\$5,500 to \$15,000+	A Customer First AC, 2026 [4]
Price increase since 2024	~25 to 30%	Florida Airflow, 2026 [2]
Florida SEER2 minimum (<45k BTU split)	14.3 SEER2	DOE / Budget Heating, 2025 [5]
FPL Residential HVAC rebate	\$200 instant	FPL Program Standards, 2025 [9]

Federal 25C credit status	Expired Dec 31, 2025	Rewiring America / HVAC Base, 2026 [7][13]
R-454B / R-32 transition date	January 1, 2026	AC Direct / Budget Heating, 2026 [6]

2026 AC Installation Cost in Coral Springs at a Glance

In short: Most Coral Springs homeowners pay \$8,000 to \$13,000 in 2026 for a fully installed central AC, with smaller homes landing lower and higher-efficiency or duct-heavy jobs running higher.

Pricing in Coral Springs looks different than it did even two years ago. The honest range for a new central AC install is roughly \$5,500 on the low end to \$15,000 or more on the high end, with most 3-to-4-ton residential jobs landing between \$8,000 and \$13,000 [3][4]. Refrigerant rule changes, tariffs, and stricter efficiency minimums pushed prices up roughly 25 to 30% since 2024 [2].

A quick way to set expectations by home size:

- **1,500 square feet** (typical 2.5-ton system): \$6,000 to \$9,500
- **2,000 to 2,500 square feet** (3 to 3.5-ton system): \$8,000 to \$11,500
- **3,000+ square feet** (4 to 5-ton system): \$10,500 to \$15,000+ [3][12]

These numbers assume a complete system: outdoor condenser, indoor air handler, evaporator coil, refrigerant line set, electrical disconnect, thermostat, Broward County permit, and startup commissioning [25]. A bare-bones condenser swap costs less, but it's rarely the right call once refrigerant generation or coil sizing falls out of step with the new outdoor unit.

If you'd rather skip the guessing, our team will walk your home and put a real number on paper. See [free estimates](#) for what to expect from a site visit.

Cost by Tonnage: 2-Ton to 5-Ton Pricing in South Florida

In short: Tonnage is the single biggest line item on your quote, and one ton of cooling roughly correlates to 500 to 600 square feet in South Florida's climate.

Here's what 2026 South Florida pricing looks like across the most common residential tonnages, installed at the regional SEER2 minimum:

- **2 ton (24,000 BTU):** \$6,000 to \$8,500. Best fit for homes around 1,000 to 1,200 square feet.
- **2.5 ton (30,000 BTU):** \$6,500 to \$9,500. Common in older Coral Springs ranches near 1,300 to 1,500 square feet.
- **3 ton (36,000 BTU):** \$7,500 to \$11,000. The most-installed size in Broward, typical for 1,500 to 1,800 square feet.
- **3.5 ton (42,000 BTU):** \$8,500 to \$12,000. Fits 1,800 to 2,200 square feet.
- **4 ton (48,000 BTU):** \$9,500 to \$13,500. Right for 2,200 to 2,700 square feet.
- **5 ton (60,000 BTU):** \$11,000 to \$15,500. Larger two-story Coral Springs homes near 3,000 square feet [3][12].

These bands assume new equipment using R-454B or R-32 refrigerant, factory warranty, and a Broward County permit pulled by the contractor.

Why Tonnage Isn't a Guess

Tonnage isn't a number a contractor should be eyeballing from the existing equipment. Florida code expects a **Manual J load calculation**, which factors square footage, insulation, window orientation, ceiling height, infiltration, and occupancy. Skipping it leads to two expensive mistakes. An oversized system short-cycles, leaves humidity behind, and wears out compressors faster. An undersized one runs constantly and never quite catches up on a 95-degree August afternoon.

A reasonable rule of thumb in South Florida is one ton of cooling per 500 to 600 square feet, but treat that as a sanity check on a real Manual J, not a substitute for it.

How SEER2 Rating Changes Your Price (and What's Worth It)

In short: Florida's regional SEER2 minimum is 14.3 for split systems under 45,000 BTU; jumping to 16 or 18 SEER2 typically adds \$1,500 to \$3,500 but pays back through utility savings and humidity control.

SEER2 stands for **Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio 2**, the updated rating system the Department of Energy rolled out in 2023. The numbers are tested under tougher real-world conditions, with external static pressure of 0.5 inches of water gauge versus the old 0.1, so a 16 SEER unit under the old scale rates about 15.2 SEER2 under the new one [33]. The hardware didn't get less efficient. The measurement got more honest.

Florida sits in the **Southeast region**, where the federal minimums are:

- **Split system AC under 45,000 BTU:** 14.3 SEER2
- **Split system AC 45,000 BTU or larger:** 13.8 SEER2
- **Heat pumps (any size):** 14.3 SEER2 [5][32]

For heat pumps, you'll also see HSPF2 (Heating Seasonal Performance Factor 2) on the spec sheet, the heating-side companion to SEER2. EER2 measures performance at peak heat (95 degrees outside), which matters more in Coral Springs than the headline SEER2 number alone.

Going higher than the minimum costs more upfront, and it matters more in Coral Springs than almost anywhere else in the country. South Florida logs roughly 3,000 cooling hours a year, so even a small efficiency gain compounds. Higher SEER2 units paired with variable-speed compressors also handle humidity better, which is a daily-comfort issue here, not a luxury [38].

Rough pricing by efficiency tier on a typical 3-ton install:

- **14.3 SEER2** (single-stage baseline): \$7,500 to \$9,500
- **16 SEER2** (two-stage, mid-tier): \$9,500 to \$11,500
- **18+ SEER2** (variable-speed inverter): \$11,500 to \$14,000+

The mid-tier two-stage is the sweet spot for most Coral Springs homes. The premium variable-speed pays back fastest in larger homes or households where someone is home through the day.

What's Behind the 2026 Price Jump (R-454B, Tariffs, Labor)

In short: Three forces pushed 2026 AC pricing in Coral Springs noticeably above 2024 levels, the R-454B refrigerant transition, raw-material tariffs, and a tighter HVAC labor market.

If you got a quote in 2023 or 2024 and the 2026 number looks 20 to 30% higher, it's not your contractor padding the bill. Three real things changed.

R-454B and R-32 Are the New Refrigerant Baseline

Effective January 1, 2026, the EPA's AIM Act phaseout means new residential AC installs in Coral Springs use **R-454B** or **R-32** instead of R-410A [6][35]. Both are A2L-classified, meaning mildly flammable and low-toxicity, fine when handled correctly, but requiring updated technician training, A2L-rated tools, and new permit posture on certain installations. Manufacturers redesigned nearly every unit on the market for the new refrigerants, and that redesign cost flowed downstream. Expect roughly a 5 to 10% equipment premium versus the previous R-410A generation.

Tariffs on Steel, Aluminum, and Copper

Central AC equipment is built from these three metals, and tariffs in 2025 added cost to both domestic and imported components [2]. That hit the condenser cabinet, the coil materials, the refrigerant line set, and the wiring, basically every line on the equipment portion of a quote.

A Tighter HVAC Labor Market

Florida's licensed HVAC contractor count hasn't kept pace with population growth, and the A2L refrigerant transition layered on additional requirements, EPA Section 608 recertification for the new refrigerants, A2L-specific safety training, and new tooling. Skilled-trades labor is the single largest soft cost on most 2026 Coral Springs quotes [35].

Ductwork: The Hidden Variable That Can Add \$1,500 to \$4,000

In short: Ductwork issues are the most common reason a Coral Springs AC quote balloons mid-project, and they're rarely visible until a tech walks the attic.

Plenty of Coral Springs homes built in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s have original or first-replacement ductwork that's leaking, undersized, or has lost most of its insulation R-value. A new high-efficiency condenser bolted to bad ducts won't deliver the efficiency on the spec sheet, and the static-pressure mismatch can short-cycle expensive new equipment.

Typical duct-related add-ons:

- **Duct sealing** (Aeroseal or mastic): \$800 to \$2,000
- **Partial duct replacement** (1 to 3 runs): \$1,200 to \$3,000
- **Full attic duct system replacement:** \$2,500 to \$6,500
- **Return-duct upgrade or addition:** \$400 to \$1,200 [3][4]

A reputable contractor will pressure-test the existing ducts and quote duct work as a separate line, not bury it in the system price. If duct leakage isn't disclosed in writing, ask for the **Duct Blaster test** result

before signing. Bad ducts also explain hot rooms, dust complaints, and high humidity that a new AC alone won't fix.

Brand Tier Pricing: Budget, Mid, Premium

In short: Brand drives roughly 10 to 25% of installed price, and the right pick in Coral Springs depends more on local parts availability and coastal corrosion exposure than logo prestige.

A useful mental model is three tiers:

- **Budget tier** (Goodman, Payne, Heil, Tempstar): \$7,000 to \$10,000 installed for a 3-ton system. Solid baseline equipment, good for rental properties or shorter expected stays.
- **Mid tier** (Rheem, Bryant, Daikin, York): \$9,000 to \$12,500 installed. Broader efficiency options and more flexible warranty terms.
- **Premium tier** (Trane, Carrier, Lennox, American Standard): \$10,500 to \$15,000+ installed. Deep dealer networks in Broward County and longer standard warranties [3][4].

In Coral Springs, parts availability matters as much as nameplate. Carrier, Trane, and Rheem have the strongest local dealer support, which means a same-day or next-day part on a hot July afternoon when your compressor calls it quits. A premium brand from a contractor without local parts access can take longer to service than a mid-tier from a local specialist who keeps the right parts on the truck.

Coastal Corrosion and Coil Coatings

Coastal corrosion is worth pricing into the decision. Coral Springs sits roughly 10 miles inland from the Atlantic, but salt-air exposure still shows up on outdoor condenser cabinets faster than it does in central Florida. Several mid-tier and premium brands offer **coastal-grade coatings** or **all-aluminum micro-channel coils** as an upgrade, usually \$300 to \$700, that meaningfully extends outdoor-unit life. If you're closer to the coast or in a home with prior corrosion issues, it's a line worth asking your contractor to quote.

Labor, Permits, and Broward County Fees

In short: Labor and overhead make up 30 to 50% of a Coral Springs AC install, and the Broward County permit is required by Florida Statute Chapter 489 for every install, no exceptions.

A 3-ton install typically takes a two-person crew six to ten hours. Labor bands in 2026 for Coral Springs:

- **Standard daytime install:** \$1,800 to \$3,200
- **After-hours or weekend installs** (peak season): add 20 to 30%

A note on timing: peak-season demand in Coral Springs runs roughly May through September, when same-week install slots are scarce and labor costs sit at the top of the bands above. Booking in the fall or early spring often shaves 10 to 15% off the labor line and gives you faster scheduling.

Broward County Permits

Florida Statute Chapter 489 and the Florida Building Code require a building permit for any AC install, replacement, or removal in Broward County [10]. A licensed contractor pulls the permit on your behalf and rolls it into the quote. Permit fees typically run \$150 to \$400 for a residential AC depending on system valuation, plus an inspection fee [11].

What a Broward Inspection Covers

An inspector checks refrigerant line connections, condenser pad anchoring (including hurricane straps in many zones), condensate routing, electrical disconnect placement, and thermostat wiring. Skipping the permit usually voids manufacturer warranties and can complicate a future home sale or insurance claim.

If a quote doesn't itemize the permit, ask. A missing permit line is the most common red flag on a low-ball Coral Springs estimate, and it's a sign the contractor may not be licensed or planning to pull one.

Rebates and Incentives That Actually Apply in 2026

In short: The federal 25C tax credit expired December 31, 2025. In Coral Springs, the FPL \$200 instant rebate is the main 2026 incentive, and it requires 15.2 SEER2 equipment.

This is where 2026 quotes get muddled. A lot of contractor websites still advertise the **federal 25C credit** as if it covers 2026 installs. It doesn't. The **One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)**, signed July 4, 2025, terminated Section 25C (the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit) and Section 25D (Residential Clean Energy Credit) for property placed in service after December 31, 2025 [7][13][14]. If your install date is in 2026, you do not get the \$600 AC credit or \$2,000 heat pump credit on your federal taxes. Full stop.

Here's what does apply in Coral Springs in 2026:

- **FPL Residential HVAC Program rebate:** \$200 instant rebate, applied as a credit on your contractor invoice. Requires a Participating Independent Contractor, a complete system replacement (condenser plus air handler plus coil), and a minimum 15.2 SEER2 rating [9][52].
- **Manufacturer seasonal promotions:** Carrier, Trane, Rheem, and Lennox typically run spring and fall instant rebates of \$300 to \$1,200 through authorized dealers. These rotate by quarter and stack with the FPL rebate.
- **Financing-based incentives:** 0% APR for 12 to 24 months is common through Wells Fargo, Synchrony, or Service Finance, often with no impact on the cash price. Financing specifics come in the next section.

What's not available in Coral Springs in 2026:

- The federal 25C tax credit (expired)
- The Residential Clean Energy Credit (25D, expired)
- A Florida statewide rebate (none exists)
- The IRA HEAR or HOMES rebates (Florida's \$346 million allocation remains unlaunched as of early 2026) [8]

Translation: don't sign a contract that pencils in a federal tax credit for a 2026 install. If a contractor's quote shows a "federal incentive" line, ask them to remove it or show you current IRS guidance.

If you'd like a written quote that reflects what actually applies in 2026, including any FPL or manufacturer rebate you qualify for, see [free estimates](#) for what to expect.

Financing a New AC in Coral Springs

In short: 0% APR financing for 12 to 24 months is the most common way Coral Springs homeowners spread an AC install, and rates beyond the promo period typically run 8 to 18% APR.

Most licensed Coral Springs contractors offer financing through Service Finance Company, Synchrony, Wells Fargo, or Greensky. Typical options:

- **0% APR for 12, 18, or 24 months** with minimum monthly payments. Common on jobs over \$5,000. If you can pay off the balance inside the promo window, this is the cheapest path.
- **Deferred interest** structures look identical to 0% APR but charge accrued interest retroactively if you miss the payoff window. Read the fine print before signing.
- **Standard fixed-rate loans** for 5 to 10 years at 8 to 18% APR depending on credit and program.
- **PACE financing** (Property Assessed Clean Energy) is available in parts of Florida and attaches to the property tax bill rather than the borrower. Used carefully it can work, but it complicates a future sale and the rates are often higher than they appear.

A quick rule of thumb: the cheapest cash-equivalent financing is 0% APR with a pay-it-off plan. Anything else, run the math on total interest before signing.

How to Read a Coral Springs AC Installation Quote

In short: A solid Coral Springs AC quote shows tonnage, SEER2 rating, refrigerant type, model numbers, ductwork scope, permit, FPL rebate, labor, and a written warranty, all on one page.

Use this checklist when comparing quotes:

- **Equipment line:** Tonnage, SEER2 (and EER2 if relevant), brand, model numbers for both the condenser and air handler, and the refrigerant type. In 2026, that means R-454B or R-32, anything else is a flag.
- **Manual J on file:** A real load calculation, not a rule-of-thumb based on the existing tonnage. If the contractor can't produce it, the sizing is a guess.
- **Ductwork scope:** Inspect-only, partial repair, or replacement, with separate line items. Duct work bundled into the system price is a transparency issue.
- **Permit line:** Broward County permit fee listed, not buried in overhead. A missing permit line is the most common red flag on a low-ball estimate.
- **FPL rebate:** \$200 applied as an instant credit if the equipment qualifies at 15.2 SEER2 or higher. If a contractor's quote shows a "federal tax credit" line for a 2026 install, ask them to remove it.
- **Labor:** Hours and crew size disclosed. A 3-ton install is typically a two-person crew, six to ten hours. Ask if the technicians are NATE-certified, it's a useful proxy for training depth.

- **Warranty:** Manufacturer parts (5 to 10 years), labor (1 to 10 years), and any extended options spelled out in writing.
- **Startup and commissioning:** Refrigerant charge verification, airflow measurement, and a written startup report.

If a quote doesn't break these out, ask. A reputable Coral Springs contractor will walk you through every line and explain the tradeoffs. Browse our [AC installation](#) and [AC replacement](#) pages for what we include in every estimate.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much does a 3-ton AC unit cost installed in Coral Springs?

A 3-ton central AC installation in Coral Springs runs **\$7,500 to \$11,000** in 2026 at the regional SEER2 minimum, including the condenser, air handler, coil, line set, thermostat, Broward County permit, and FPL's \$200 rebate where applicable [3][12].

Do I still get a federal tax credit for a new AC in 2026?

No. The Section 25C Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit **expired December 31, 2025** under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, signed July 4, 2025. Equipment placed in service in 2026 or later does not qualify for the federal \$600 AC credit or \$2,000 heat pump credit [7][13][14].

What SEER2 rating do I need for an AC in Florida?

Florida sits in the Southeast region. The federal minimum is **14.3 SEER2** for split systems under 45,000 BTU and **13.8 SEER2** for larger systems. Heat pumps require 14.3 SEER2 nationally [5][32]. FPL's \$200 instant rebate requires 15.2 SEER2 or higher.

Does Coral Springs require a permit for AC installation?

Yes. Florida Statute Chapter 489 and the Florida Building Code require a Broward County building permit for every AC install, replacement, or removal. Your licensed contractor pulls the permit and includes the fee in the quote [10].

What is R-454B and does it raise my AC cost?

R-454B is a low-GWP A2L refrigerant that replaced R-410A in new residential equipment effective January 1, 2026. It typically adds 5 to 10% to equipment cost versus older R-410A units and requires technicians trained for A2L handling [6][35].

Should I repair or replace my old AC?

A useful rule: multiply your AC's age in years by the repair cost. If the result exceeds \$5,000, replacement usually makes more financial sense. In Coral Springs, systems 10 years and older running on R-22 or aging R-410A often hit that threshold quickly, especially with refrigerant prices climbing. Most central AC systems in South Florida last 12 to 15 years given the long cooling season and salt-air exposure, so any 10-plus-year-old unit is in the back half of its expected life.

How long does a Coral Springs AC installation take?

Most straight-swap residential installs take **six to ten hours** with a two-person crew [25]. Jobs that include duct work, electrical upgrades, or a new pad and hurricane anchoring can run a day and a half to two days.

Can I install my own AC in Florida?

No. Florida Statute Chapter 489 requires a licensed HVAC contractor for any AC install, and Broward County will not issue a permit to a homeowner for this scope of work. Unpermitted installs void manufacturer warranties and can lead to insurance and resale problems [10].

Definition Bank

SEER2 (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio 2): Updated DOE efficiency rating effective 2023, measuring cooling output per watt of electricity under realistic ductwork conditions. Higher is more efficient. Florida minimum is 14.3 SEER2 for split systems under 45,000 BTU.

EER2 (Energy Efficiency Ratio 2): Cooling efficiency measured at peak 95-degree conditions. Tells you how the system performs on the hottest days.

R-454B: A2L-classified low-GWP refrigerant that replaced R-410A in new residential AC equipment effective January 1, 2026.

R-32: Single-component A2L refrigerant, the other approved replacement for R-410A.

A2L refrigerant: EPA/ASHRAE safety classification meaning mildly flammable, low toxicity. Requires specific technician training and equipment.

Manual J load calculation: ACCA-standard process for sizing AC equipment based on square footage, insulation, windows, infiltration, and occupancy.

Tonnage: AC cooling capacity. One ton equals 12,000 BTU/hour of cooling output.

Condenser: The outdoor unit. Contains the compressor, condenser coil, and fan.

Air handler: The indoor unit. Contains the evaporator coil, blower motor, and air filter housing.

Section 25C: Federal Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit. Expired December 31, 2025 under OBBBA.

OBBBA: One Big Beautiful Bill Act, signed July 4, 2025, which terminated several IRA clean-energy credits.

FPL Participating Independent Contractor (PIC): A licensed HVAC contractor authorized to apply FPL's instant rebate at the time of install.

Entity Cards

Central air conditioning (Coral Springs context)

Property	Value
Climate zone	1A (hot, humid)

Annual cooling hours	~3,000
Required permit	Broward County building permit
Required SEER2 (split, <45k BTU)	14.3 minimum
Required refrigerant (2026+)	R-454B or R-32

FPL Residential HVAC Program

Property	Value
Rebate amount	\$200 instant
Minimum efficiency	15.2 SEER2
Installation requirement	PIC (Participating Independent Contractor)
Equipment scope	Complete system (condenser + air handler + coil)
Repeat eligibility	Once per 2-year window per unit

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Full JSON-LD Schema (@graph)

Complete validated schema.json for the article. Copy/paste into your CMS or schema manager. The graph contains 7 nodes: WebSite, Organization (HVACBusiness/LocalBusiness), WebPage (with BreadcrumbList), BlogPosting, FAQPage (8 Q&As), DefinedTermSet (12 terms), and Place.

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      "description": "Detailed 2026 cost breakdown for new central AC installation in Coral Springs and South Florida. Pricing by tonnage, SEER2 rating, ductwork condition, brand tier, and labor, plus financing and rebates.",
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        "name": "Likir HVAC Solutions"
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$11,000 in 2026 at the regional SEER2 minimum, including the condenser, air handler,
coil, line set, thermostat, Broward County permit, and FPL's $200 rebate where
applicable."
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        "acceptedAnswer": {
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          "text": "No. The Section 25C Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit
expired December 31, 2025 under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, signed July 4, 2025.
Equipment placed in service in 2026 or later does not qualify for the federal $600 AC
credit or $2,000 heat pump credit."
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"text": "Florida sits in the Southeast region. The federal minimum is 14.3 SEER2 for split systems under 45,000 BTU and 13.8 SEER2 for larger systems. Heat pumps require 14.3 SEER2 nationally. FPL's \$200 instant rebate requires 15.2 SEER2 or higher."

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 "text": "R-454B is a low-GWP A2L refrigerant that replaced R-410A in new residential equipment effective January 1, 2026. It typically adds 5 to 10 percent to equipment cost versus older R-410A units and requires technicians trained for A2L handling."
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      "description": "Energy Efficiency Ratio 2. Cooling efficiency measured at peak 95-degree conditions. Tells you how the system performs on the hottest days."
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      "description": "Single-component A2L refrigerant, the other approved replacement for R-410A."
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      "name": "A2L refrigerant",
      "description": "EPA/ASHRAE safety classification meaning mildly flammable, low toxicity. Requires specific technician training and equipment."
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      "description": "ACCA-standard process for sizing AC equipment based on square footage, insulation, windows, infiltration, and occupancy."
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      "description": "AC cooling capacity. One ton equals 12,000 BTU per hour of cooling output."
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      "description": "The outdoor unit of a split-system AC. Contains the compressor, condenser coil, and fan."
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      "name": "Air handler",
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      "description": "One Big Beautiful Bill Act, signed July 4, 2025, which
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      "@type": "DefinedTerm",
      "name": "FPL Participating Independent Contractor",
      "description": "A licensed HVAC contractor authorized to apply Florida Power
and Light's instant rebate at the time of installation."
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