

OTTAWA HVAC PRO

Permits & Rebates

HVAC permits, inspections, and available Ontario
rebate programs

8 Expert Answers from Construction Brain

ottawahvacpro.ca/construction-brain

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Q1

What is the Canada Greener Homes Grant?

The **Canada Greener Homes Grant** is a federal program that provides up to \$5,000 in rebates to help Canadian homeowners make energy-efficient upgrades to their homes, including HVAC improvements like high-efficiency furnaces and heat pumps.

How the Program Works

The grant requires two EnerGuide home evaluations - one before and one after your upgrades - to measure the energy efficiency improvements. You'll receive rebates based on the specific upgrades you complete, with higher rebates for improvements that deliver greater energy savings. Popular HVAC upgrades include high-efficiency furnaces (up to \$1,000 rebate), air source heat pumps (up to \$1,000), and cold climate heat pumps (up to \$1,000). The program also covers insulation, windows, doors, and smart thermostats.

Ottawa-Specific Considerations

In Ottawa's climate, heat pumps and high-efficiency furnaces are particularly valuable upgrades that qualify for substantial rebates. Many Ottawa homeowners combine the federal grant with **Enbridge Gas rebates** and **City of Ottawa programs** to maximize their savings. The total savings can often reach \$2,000-\$4,000 when stacking multiple rebate programs. Keep in mind that **TSSA permits are required** for furnace and gas appliance installations, and only licensed G2/G3 technicians can perform this work.

Important Program Details

You must register for the program and complete your initial evaluation before starting any work - retrofits completed before registration don't qualify. The program has been extended through 2027, but funding is limited and applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Professional installation by licensed contractors is required for all HVAC upgrades to qualify for rebates.

For a free estimate on qualifying HVAC upgrades and help navigating available rebates, request a quote from Ottawa HVAC Pro. We're experienced with the grant application process and can ensure your installation meets all program requirements.

Q2

How do I apply for HVAC rebates in Ontario?

Ontario offers several HVAC rebates through federal and provincial programs, with applications typically submitted online after equipment installation by a licensed contractor.

The **Canada Greener Homes Grant** is the primary federal program offering up to \$5,000 for heat pump installations and up to \$1,000 for smart thermostats. You'll need pre- and post-installation EnerGuide evaluations, and the equipment must meet specific efficiency standards. Applications are submitted through the Natural Resources Canada website after your HVAC contractor completes the installation.

Enbridge Gas also offers rebates for Ontario customers, including rebates for high-efficiency furnaces (typically \$250-\$500), programmable thermostats, and other qualifying equipment. These rebates are often processed directly by your HVAC contractor at the time of installation, reducing your upfront costs. The equipment must be installed by a licensed technician and meet Enbridge's efficiency requirements.

In Ottawa specifically, you may also qualify for additional municipal incentives or utility rebates. The City of Ottawa occasionally offers energy efficiency programs, and Hydro Ottawa has provided rebates for heat pump installations in the past. It's worth checking both websites for current offerings, as these programs can change seasonally.

Important application requirements include keeping all receipts, ensuring your contractor is properly licensed (TSSA registration for gas equipment), and applying within the specified timeframes - usually within 6-12 months of installation. Most rebate programs require that work be completed by qualified professionals, not DIY installations.

For current rebate amounts and application deadlines, check the Canada Greener Homes website and your local utility websites. Want to discuss which rebates apply to your specific HVAC upgrade? We can help navigate the application process and ensure your new equipment qualifies for maximum rebates.

Q3

Are there rebates for new furnaces in Ontario?

Yes, there are several rebate programs available for new furnaces in Ontario, including federal, provincial, and utility rebates that can save you hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

The **Canada Greener Homes Grant** offers up to \$5,000 for qualifying high-efficiency furnace upgrades. To qualify, you need an EnerGuide home evaluation before and after installation, and the new furnace must meet specific efficiency requirements (typically 95% AFUE or higher). The program also covers the cost of the required home evaluations.

Enbridge Gas rebates are available for Ottawa residents, offering \$250-\$750 for high-efficiency furnace installations depending on the efficiency rating. These rebates apply to furnaces with 90% AFUE or higher and can be combined with federal programs. Some manufacturers also offer additional rebates during promotional periods, particularly in spring and fall.

In Ottawa's climate, investing in a **high-efficiency furnace (96%+ AFUE)** not only qualifies for maximum rebates but also provides significant long-term energy savings. The combination of rebates can often reduce your out-of-pocket costs by \$1,000-\$2,000 or more. However, rebate programs change frequently and have specific eligibility requirements, so it's important to confirm current offerings before making your purchase.

Important safety note: New furnace installation requires a TSSA permit and must be performed by a licensed G2 technician. The installation also needs to meet current Ontario Building Code requirements for venting, gas connections, and carbon monoxide detection.

For current rebate information and to ensure your installation qualifies for all available programs, request a consultation with Ottawa HVAC Pro. We can help navigate the rebate process and ensure your new furnace meets all efficiency and safety requirements.

What permits are needed for HVAC work in Ottawa?

HVAC permits in Ottawa depend on the type of work being performed. For gas appliances like furnaces and fireplaces, a TSSA (Technical Standards & Safety Authority) permit is required, while electrical work may need a city electrical permit.

Gas appliance work requires TSSA permits and can only be performed by licensed G2 or G3 gas technicians. This includes furnace installations, replacements, and relocations, as well as gas fireplace installations. The TSSA permit ensures the work meets Ontario's safety codes for fuel-burning equipment. Your licensed HVAC contractor typically handles obtaining these permits as part of their service.

Heat pump installations often require electrical permits from the City of Ottawa, especially for the outdoor unit connection and any electrical panel upgrades. Air conditioning installations may also need electrical permits depending on the electrical work involved. Ductwork modifications generally don't require permits unless they affect structural elements or fire separations.

In Ottawa specifically, permit fees vary by project scope. TSSA permits for furnace work typically cost \$75-150, while city electrical permits range from \$100-300. The permit process usually takes 1-3 business days for approval. Some contractors include permit costs in their quotes, while others bill them separately.

Safety is the primary reason these permits exist - they ensure proper installation, adequate ventilation, and carbon monoxide safety. Never hire unlicensed contractors for gas appliance work, as this violates Ontario regulations and can void your home insurance. TSSA requirements may vary based on specific installation details, so always confirm requirements with your licensed HVAC technician.

For your HVAC project, choose a contractor who handles all necessary permits and inspections. This ensures code compliance and protects your investment. Want to discuss permits for your specific HVAC project? We offer free consultations to review your requirements.

Do I qualify for the oil to heat pump rebate?

The federal Oil to Heat Pump Affordability Program offers up to \$10,000 for eligible homeowners switching from oil heating to heat pumps. To qualify, your household income must be under \$70,000 annually, and you must currently heat with heating oil.

Key eligibility requirements include being a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, owning your primary residence, and having oil as your main heating source. The rebate covers air source heat pumps, ground source heat pumps, and air-to-water heat pumps that meet specific efficiency standards. You'll need to work with a participating contractor and use approved equipment to receive the rebate.

In Ottawa, this program is particularly valuable given our cold winters and the rising cost of heating oil. Many Ottawa homeowners are discovering that modern cold-climate heat pumps can effectively heat homes even at -25°C or lower. The rebate can significantly offset the \$8,000 to \$15,000 typical cost of a cold-climate heat pump installation in the Ottawa market.

Important safety consideration: Heat pump installations require electrical work and refrigerant handling by licensed technicians. The system must be properly sized for Ottawa's climate to ensure adequate heating during our coldest days. Many installations also include a backup heating source for extreme cold snaps.

Your next step is to verify your eligibility on the Natural Resources Canada website and get quotes from participating contractors. The rebate is processed after installation, so you'll need to pay upfront and then receive reimbursement. For a free assessment of whether a heat pump is right for your Ottawa home, consider getting quotes from multiple licensed HVAC contractors who participate in the program.

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Q6

What is the Enbridge rebate for furnaces?

Enbridge Gas offers several rebates for high-efficiency furnace upgrades in Ontario, with amounts varying based on efficiency ratings and installation requirements. The main furnace rebate is typically \$250-\$500 for qualifying high-efficiency models, but rebate amounts and eligibility change regularly.

Current Enbridge rebate programs generally focus on ENERGY STAR certified furnaces with 95% AFUE (Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency) or higher. The rebate amount often depends on whether you're replacing an older, less efficient unit and if you combine the furnace upgrade with other qualifying improvements like programmable thermostats or duct sealing.

In Ottawa's market, these rebates can help offset the cost difference between mid-efficiency and high-efficiency furnaces. Since high-efficiency furnace installations typically range from \$4,500-\$6,500, a \$250-\$500 rebate makes the upgrade more attractive while providing long-term energy savings on your heating bills.

Important eligibility requirements usually include having the work performed by a licensed contractor (like Ottawa HVAC Pro's TSSA-licensed technicians), proper disposal of the old equipment, and submitting applications within specified timeframes. Some rebates also require pre-approval before installation begins.

Check current rebate details directly with Enbridge Gas or ask your HVAC contractor about available incentives, as programs can change seasonally and funding may be limited. We stay updated on all available rebates and can help you navigate the application process to maximize your savings on a new high-efficiency furnace installation.

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Do I need a permit to replace my furnace in Ottawa?

Yes, you need a TSSA permit to replace your furnace in Ottawa. This is a legal requirement in Ontario for any fuel-burning appliance installation or replacement.

TSSA (Technical Standards & Safety Authority) regulates all fuel-burning equipment in Ontario, including natural gas and propane furnaces. The permit ensures your installation meets safety codes and is properly inspected. Only licensed G2 or G3 gas technicians can pull these permits and perform the work - this isn't a DIY project due to safety risks and legal requirements.

The permit process typically works like this: Your HVAC contractor will apply for the TSSA permit before starting work, complete the installation according to code requirements, and then schedule a TSSA inspection. The inspector verifies proper installation, venting, gas connections, and safety devices. You'll receive a certificate of compliance once everything passes inspection.

In Ottawa, you may also need a City of Ottawa building permit depending on your specific situation - such as if you're changing the furnace location, modifying ductwork significantly, or upgrading electrical service. Your contractor should know when additional permits are required and can guide you through the process.

Never attempt furnace replacement yourself or hire unlicensed contractors. Improper installation can lead to carbon monoxide leaks, gas leaks, fires, or voided insurance coverage. The permit system exists to protect you and your family's safety.

Working with a licensed HVAC contractor ensures all permits are handled properly and your installation meets Ontario safety codes. For a free consultation about your furnace replacement and permit requirements, contact Ottawa HVAC Pro - we handle all permitting as part of our professional installation service.

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What HVAC rebates are available in 2025?

Several HVAC rebates are available in Ontario for 2025, with programs from federal, provincial, and utility sources that can save Ottawa homeowners thousands of dollars.

The **Canada Greener Homes Grant** remains one of the most significant programs, offering up to \$5,000 for heat pump installations and up to \$1,000 for high-efficiency furnaces. This federal program requires an EnerGuide evaluation before and after the work, but the rebates can substantially offset your upgrade costs. Heat pumps qualify for the highest rebates since they're considered the most environmentally friendly heating option.

Enbridge Gas rebates are available for Ottawa residents, typically offering \$250-\$500 for high-efficiency furnace installations and additional rebates for smart thermostats. The utility also provides rebates for tankless water heaters and other energy-efficient gas appliances. These rebates can be combined with federal programs in most cases.

Hydro Ottawa offers rebates for electric heat pumps and energy-efficient cooling systems, particularly mini-split heat pumps. Their programs change seasonally, so it's worth checking their current offerings. Some years they've offered rebates up to \$1,500 for qualifying heat pump installations.

Important considerations for Ottawa homeowners: Rebate programs often have limited funding and can close early in the year once budgets are exhausted. Many programs require that work be completed by licensed contractors and that specific efficiency ratings are met. For gas appliances, your contractor must be TSSA licensed, and permits are typically required.

The rebate landscape changes frequently, and combining multiple programs can maximize your savings. For current rebate availability and help navigating the application process, request a consultation with Ottawa HVAC Pro - we stay updated on all available programs and can help ensure your installation qualifies for maximum rebates.

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