

2021 Washington State Energy Code (WSEC) Residential Significant Changes: Space Heating

BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023



In new construction, **primary** heating must be provided by a heat pump system. Both ducted and ductless systems are acceptable.

Some exceptions apply, see 2021 WSEC Section R403.13

Supplementary heating may be provided by other system types.

Some control requirements apply, see 2021 WSEC Section R403.1.2

In existing buildings (retrofits, replacements, and additions), new and replaced heating equipment must be a heat pump, except that existing heating equipment (such as a gas furnace) may be replaced like-in-kind so long as the size of the equipment is not greater than the existing.



Air conditioners may be added to existing systems so long as heating equipment is not being replaced.

For full code text, see 2021 WSEC Section R503.1.2



In new or existing buildings, this change does not prohibit gas supply from being provided to homes. This change does not ban the use of gas or propane for cooking appliances or decorative gas fireplaces.

This handout summarizes one significant change in the 2021 Washington State Energy Code (WSEC) for those buildings defined in the code as *Residential Buildings*. See complete code text for details.