

Replacing an air conditioner feels like a big step until you watch professionals turn a messy day into a quiet, efficient system that lasts a decade or more. If you live in Manor, TX, sweating through the shoulder seasons is not an option. This article walks through what actually happens when you hire a crew for an AC installation in Manor TX, what decisions you will be asked to make, realistic timelines and costs, and the common surprises I have seen on jobs over the last eight years working on central air systems around Austin.

### Why this matters

Summer in Central Texas is long, and a poorly executed installation will show itself quickly: short cycling, uneven cooling, skyrocketing electric bills, or premature compressor failure. A careful installation aligns the new equipment with your house, your ductwork, and your budget. It also reduces callbacks. That saves you money and makes the system perform the way you expect it to for years.

### First contact and scope

Most projects start the same way: a phone call or online request. For AC Repair in Manor TX or a full AC installation in Manor TX, a **air conditioner repair Manor TX** technician typically schedules an on-site visit to size the system and inspect the house. This matters because the right unit depends on more than square footage. Insulation levels, ceiling height, window exposures, shading, duct condition, and even the number of people regularly occupying the home all influence the load calculation.

Expect a technician to perform a Manual J load calculation or at least a simplified version of it. If they skip it, ask why. A unit that is oversized will cool the air too quickly without removing humidity. Undersized units will run constantly and still leave hot spots. Both outcomes shorten equipment life and increase energy cost.

### Permitting, codes, and the paperwork you will see

In Manor, like most Texas jurisdictions, replacing an AC often requires a permit. A reputable company will secure permits for you and ensure the install complies with city and county codes, and with the National Electrical Code where applicable. Permits add a few hundred dollars to the invoice in many cases, but they protect you. Inspectors check refrigerant lines, electrical connections, and clearances. If you ever sell the house, permitted work reduces future headaches.

### You will choose equipment — what to weigh

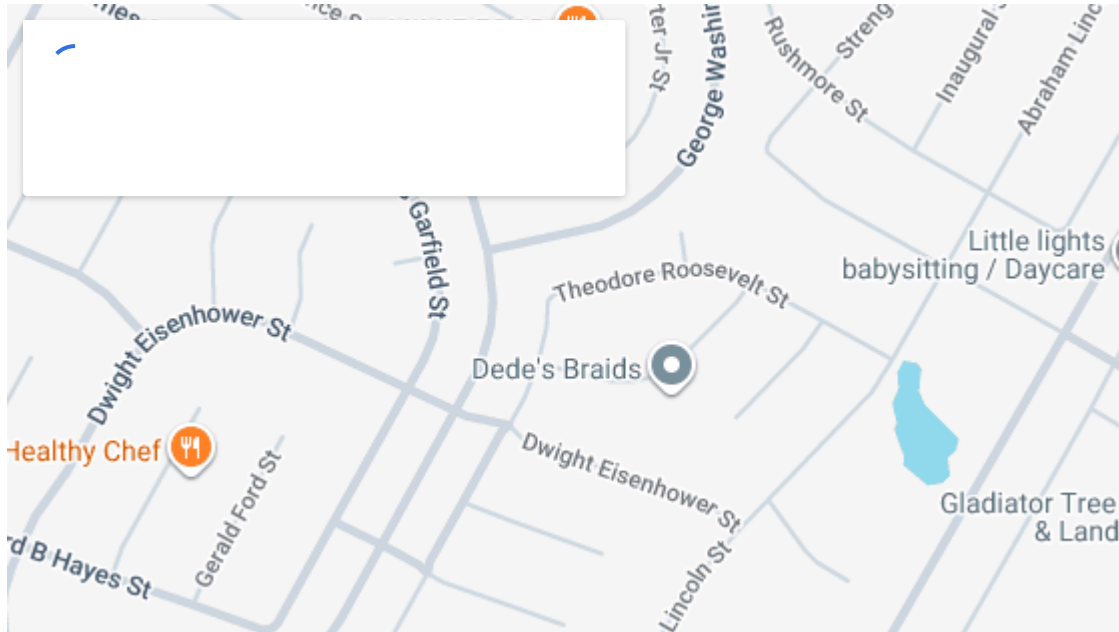
When the sales conversation turns to which unit to buy, expect options on efficiency, compressor type, and brand. Here are the main factors to consider, and the trade-offs I have seen homeowners wrestle with.

- efficiency rating, expressed as SEER. Higher numbers deliver lower running costs, but the premium for each SEER point increases. In Manor, moving from a 14 SEER to a 16 SEER often pays back over time with moderate electricity prices. Jumping to 20 SEER can make sense if you plan to keep the house 10 years or more and electricity prices rise.
- single stage versus two stage versus variable speed compressors. Single stage units are simpler and usually cheaper. Two stage or variable speed systems control humidity and comfort better, and they often reduce noise. The trade-off is higher upfront cost and potentially more expensive repairs.
- matching indoor coil and condenser. The indoor coil and outdoor condenser should be matched to ensure performance and maintain warranty coverage. Contractors sometimes pair unmatched equipment for cost savings. That can work but ask how it affects warranty and efficiency.
- refrigerant type. Modern systems use R-410A and newer blends. Older homes with r-22 systems require a full replacement; r-22 is phased out and costly to recharge.

I prefer to show numbers rather than make blanket promises. For a typical 1,800 to 2,200 square foot Manor home, a properly sized 14 to 16 SEER system installed by a reputable team will often range from roughly \$4,500 to \$8,000 depending on ductwork, electrical upgrades, and zoning. If extensive duct repairs or a new electrical disconnect are needed, plan for another \$1,000 to \$3,000. Those figures vary with brand, warranties, and site conditions.

### Site prep and arrival day

Good crews arrive with organized trucks, labeled parts, and protective coverings for floors. A professional installer will:



- visually inspect the area and explain where the indoor coil and outdoor condenser will sit,
- verify electric service and capacity,
- confirm access points for refrigerant lines and duct connections.

Before the crew starts, you should ask about where they will stage equipment, how they will protect flooring, and how they will handle pets and children. Expect noise, forklift work for heavier condensers, and a bit of dust. Ask for a contact number for the crew lead.

### A practical checklist to prepare the house

If you want to be ready, complete these five steps the day before installation:

- clear access paths to the existing AC equipment and the attic or closet where the indoor unit sits,
- remove plants and loose items near the outdoor condenser location,
- ensure a parking spot near the house for the installation truck,
- secure pets and keep children away from the work area,
- make a clear space in the attic or garage where technicians will need to work.

### What the technicians do, step by step

On most replacement jobs the sequence is familiar, though sites vary. I will sketch a typical day so you can picture the work.

First, disconnect and remove the old equipment. Crews recover refrigerant per EPA rules, remove the condenser from the pad or roof, and detach the indoor coil and associated drain lines. This step can reveal surprises: rotten wood under an aging pad, animals nesting inside ducts, or code violations with the prior electrical wiring.

Next, the team installs the indoor coil and ensures the drain pan and condensate line slope correctly to prevent future leaks. They will seal connections to ductwork with mastic or foil tape, not cheap duct tape. If the contractor replaces the air handler, they will align it and verify refrigerant line insulation is intact.

Then the outdoor condenser is set in place. If a new pad is required, the crew may pour a concrete pad or install a molded polymer pad. Crews bolt the condenser to the pad and connect the electrical disconnect. If your home needs a new circuit or service upgrade, an electrician may be on-site or scheduled separately. That can extend the timeline by a day or two.

Finally, the refrigerant lines are evacuated and charged. A proper vacuum removes moisture and non-condensibles from the system. Technicians weigh refrigerant and charge to the manufacturer specification. They will test for leaks, verify airflow across the coil, and run the system through multiple modes to observe temperatures and pressures. Experienced techs measure the temperature differential across the supply and return, aiming for roughly 16 to 22 degrees Fahrenheit in most systems. If the numbers are off, they diagnose the cause before leaving.

### How long it takes

A straightforward replacement often fits into a single day for the technicians, eight to twelve hours. If the job requires new ductwork, significant modifications to the electrical panel, or permits that require inspection scheduling, expect two to five days. Rooftop units or houses with difficult access sometimes take longer. I have seen installs extend to a week when unforeseen rot or structural work emerged after removing the old equipment.

### Common surprises and how contractors handle them

Surprises are the main source of stress. Here are frequent issues and realistic responses.

- duct problems. Many houses have leaky or undersized ducts. A new, efficient condenser will only perform as well as the ductwork allows. Good contractors identify duct issues during the pre-job inspection and present repair options. Fixing ducts can cost anywhere from a few hundred dollars for targeted repairs to several thousand for a full replacement.
- electrical deficiencies. Older homes sometimes lack the correct breaker size or do not have a dedicated circuit. This requires electrician time and sometimes a service upgrade. Expect a delay if the electrical panel must be replaced.
- improperly pitched condensate drains. If the drain line is wrong, the system can leak into living spaces. Correcting the pitch or replacing the trap is straightforward when caught, but it can require drywall or ceiling repairs if water damage has occurred.
- permit or inspection delays. Municipal inspections might take a day or two. A good contractor schedules around known inspection queues and keeps communication open.
- mismatched equipment. When an old indoor coil is left in place, warranties can be voided if the new outdoor unit is not compatible. Ask for confirmation that matched components will be installed or that the warranty remains intact.

### Warranty, maintenance, and service after the install

A new AC is only as good as the support behind it. Expect two warranty types: manufacturer and workmanship. Manufacturer warranties typically cover the compressor and major components for five to ten years if registered. Workmanship warranties from the contractor cover installation defects for a shorter period, often one to five years. Ask for both in writing.

Proper maintenance extends life and saves energy. For AC maintenance in Manor TX, plan on semiannual tune-ups: one in spring to prepare for summer, and one in fall to clean and inspect after heavy use. During a tune-up, a technician will change filters, check refrigerant, clean coils, lubricate bearings, inspect electrical connections, and verify thermostat calibration. In my experience, customers who schedule maintenance see fewer emergency repairs and retain higher efficiency.

If you want predictable costs, consider a maintenance agreement with the contractor. For a modest annual fee these agreements usually include priority scheduling, discounted repairs, and biannual visits. For many homeowners the cost of the plan is offset by improved efficiency and avoided breakdowns.

A practical example from the field

I once worked on a Manor job where the homeowner had an ancient 3.5 ton r-22 system and wanted a 4 ton replacement. The Manual J suggested a 3.5 ton unit was still correct, but the duct registers were too small and the attic insulation was thin. We recommended improving insulation to R-38, widening two bedrooms' return ducts, and installing a 3.5 ton 16 SEER variable speed system. The upfront cost was higher than a simple swap, but the house achieved better humidity control and average summer electric bills dropped by roughly 15 to 20 percent the following year. The homeowner valued comfort more than the smallest possible price, and the improvements paid back in comfort and fewer callbacks.

Questions you should ask before signing

Always get these answers in writing: will the indoor coil and condenser be a matched set, what is the exact SEER rating, what are labor and parts warranty terms, who handles permits and inspections, and what happens if the job uncovers additional needed repairs. Request a written estimate that separates equipment, labor, permit fees, and any potential add-ons like duct repair or electrical upgrades. If the contractor guarantees a specific completion date, have that in the contract along with provisions for handling delays.

Choosing the right contractor

A trustworthy contractor balances price with transparency, communicates clearly, and stands behind the work. Look for local references, online reviews specifically mentioning installations rather than repairs, and evidence of licenses and insurance. Since you might need AC Repair in Manor TX in the future, pick a company you trust for both installations and ongoing maintenance. Local firms such as ATX Heating & Air Conditioning serve the area and often offer both installation and maintenance packages. Ask about service response times, because fast emergency service matters when the heat arrives.

Final notes on comfort and expectations

An excellent installation does more than move cool air; it controls humidity, preserves indoor air quality, and uses electricity efficiently. Expect a short period after installation where the system stabilizes as it settles into the house. You might notice improved airflow, lower indoor humidity, and more consistent temperatures within a week. If something feels off after the first few days, call the contractor. Most reputable teams will return to fine-tune refrigerant charge, airflow, and controls during the warranty period.

If you are balancing budget and performance, remember that the cheapest upfront option rarely yields the best long-term value. A modestly higher investment in a quality install, matched components, and duct improvements tends to reduce energy bills and extend equipment life. That is the practical return homeowners in Manor see when they prioritize a complete, professional installation over the lowest initial quote.



If you need help evaluating an estimate or understanding a quote from a local provider, ask for a second opinion. A clear, itemized proposal and an honest technician who explains trade-offs are worth their weight in reduced hassle later.

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