

General Thermostat Questions

What is auxiliary or supplementary heat?

Auxiliary or supplementary heat is used when the back up heat strips in your system are used to supplement the heat pump in heating mode. It engages when the thermostat calls for it. Most thermostats have a specific temperature difference built in between the set point and room temperature for it to engage, and then disengage to allow the heat pump to do the rest of the heating. For example if the room temperature is 68 degrees and the set temperature is 75 degrees, and the supplementary heat has a 3 degree difference. The supplementary heat will run with the heat pump heat until the room temperature is 72 degrees, then it will disengage allowing the heat pump to heat until the set point of 75 degrees is reached. The temperature swing setting for supplementary or auxiliary heat differs in different thermostat models and brands. This allows the system to heat the home faster when there is a large difference in temperature. In some thermostats this feature is able to be turned off if it is not desired.

Unique solution ID: #1079

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Last update: 2014-10-07 05:00