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about wireless connectivity. Some manufacturers charge extra for the wireless dongle, which is a real pain for both me and the customer. By providing the wireless connectivity, I can show the homeowner how to use the mini split on their phone and program it as desired. The coolest part of the wireless connectivity is that the air conditioner can pair up with Google and Amazon smart devices. This lets the homeowner give verbal commands or even set it to come on. One of the most useful but also misunderstood functions of Senville mini splits is self-cleaning mode. Mini-splits do an excellent job of removing humidity, but they don't do a great job of removing the excess water from the indoor unit. The self-cleaning mode does not actually clean the unit; instead, it forces the fan to run for an extra two hours after powering off to help remove condensation. I highly recommend pressing this button if you seldom use the unit in a location such as a garage. Drying out the air conditioner will help prevent mold and mildew from building up and, therefore, reduce the amount of cleaning required by the homeowner. The next thing I like about Senville isn't a feature but the range of systems available. Many customers do not like the look of a conventional mini split indoor unit. Fortunately, Senville has a few different options to fit even the pickiest customers. Wall mount units: The most standard setup. Ceiling cassette options: I recommend these for people who don't like wall-mount systems. These go into the ceiling, so homeowners hardly notice them. I have used these in place of an older split system since Senville does make multizone condensers. Baseboard units: Senville's most unique indoor unit is the baseboard mini split. The evaporator is about the size of an old-style radiator and mounts low on the wall. I personally don't see an advantage to using this style of system, but some people do think that they look better. Ducted mini-splits: Finally, there is a ducted option, which I recently used to connect with existing ductwork in a closet and bathrooms. This particular homeowner decided to install ceiling cassettes in each room so they could control each room's temperature individually. However, that left a large closet and two bathrooms without air conditioning. The solution was to install one of the compact ducted systems as a zone and connect the existing ductwork from these spaces. The great thing is that the ducted indoor units are super compact, so they can easily fit into a tiny attic or a crawlspace. Senville Aura units offer heating in even the coldest temperatures. Heat pumps become increasingly inefficient as the temperature drops below freezing. The Aura model, in particular, works down to -22 degrees Fahrenheit. While that is fantastic for people living in frigid regions, I still recommend keeping a backup heating method such as a space heater. I always discuss energy efficiency when a customer wants a new air conditioner because it is a considerable investment. I explain the need to weigh the upfront cost of a more efficient system against its long-term costs. The most important thing to keep in mind here is that the Aura lineup is more efficient than the Leto line. Senville mini splits range from 18 SEER on the least efficient model all the way up to 28 SEER on the most efficient Aura model. The smallest Senville mini split is the 9,000 BTU, which is available in the LETO lineup as a 20.5 SEER or in the AURA lineup at 28 SEER. Spending about \$550 more upfront means a potential 40% savings in operating costs. Depending on usage, that could reduce the yearly cost to run the system from over \$200 to less than \$150. Plus, potential tax credits and utility rebates may lower the cost even further. The federal government currently has a program that offers tax credits for installing a high-efficiency heat pump. However, I recommend homeowners research system eligibility and contact their tax professional to determine if they qualify. Additionally, many utility companies across the US offer rebates for installing a new heat pump. I must emphasize that a licensed HVAC company must install the mini split to receive a tax credit or utility rebate. Senville mini splits offer competitive energy efficiency as competitors like Blueridge and Mr Cool because they use the same inverter technology. The variable-speed compressor is extremely efficient and allows the unit to operate quietly and affordably. Taking a closer look at the competition, Mr Cool's most efficient Olympus unit tops out at 23 SEER. Meanwhile, Senville's Aura line goes up to 28 SEER. I used to think this was one of the best models available, but I recently came across a 38 SEER Gree mini split. It is common for my customers to ask whether they should spend more upfront to lower energy costs or get the cheapest unit possible. Whether or not a higher SEER unit is worth it in the long run often depends on how much use the system gets and how expensive energy costs are in the area. Where I live, electricity is pretty cheap, so going from an 18 to 22 SEER system would only make a small difference, especially in locations such as a garage that sees little use. However, I would consider the higher SEER if using it in a living room or bedroom where it will be running frequently. To put the operating costs into perspective, a 12,000 BTU Senville costs about 13 cents per hour to operate (*varies based on utility rates). So running it for an average of 8 hours per day equals about \$31 per month. Whether the more efficient system is worth the cost ultimately depends on how long it will operate. If the savings is only \$50 per year, then it likely isn't worth the added cost. Still, if the potential savings is greater than \$100, it is possible to break even or come out ahead. The last factor people often forget is that air conditioners do not last forever. I recommend basing calculations on a seven-year lifespan. Therefore, if it takes seven years to break even on the price of a more efficient system, the payoff isn't worth the return. Senville has pretty solid coverage for mini splits, but there are a few good questions that customers often ask. Senville mini splits are backed by a five-year parts warranty, including indoor and outdoor units. However, it does not cover labor, so ask your installer if they provide a labor warranty. Select Senville models, including the Aura, come with a ten-year compressor warranty. I did notice that Senville is advertising a seven-year warranty on select models, but I am unable to confirm which ones. Most air conditioners require the installer or homeowner to register them to get full warranty coverage. Surprisingly, I have never seen Senville state that registration is required. Nonetheless, I am always certain to register new units just in case there is a problem in the future. There aren't too many stipulations for the Senville warranty. The biggest caveat is that a licensed HVAC contractor must install the system to get the warranty. That means not getting a friend of a friend who does AC work on the side. You need someone with a licensed business who will provide a receipt acknowledging that they installed the system. Additionally, as part of the warranty, a mini-split does require annual cleaning. The five-year warranty is pretty much the industry standard for affordable mini splits. Big HVAC companies like Trane, Daikin, and Carrier have mini splits with longer warranties, but those cost more than a Senville. For instance, Trane, Carrier, and Daikin offer a ten-year warranty on their mini-split systems. What surprises me the most is that systems from these well-known brands are actually less efficient than cheaper alternatives. A better comparison would be to Mr Cool, who only offers a two-year parts warranty and a one-year compressor warranty on Advantage Series air conditioners. I've put together this breakdown of each Senville heat pump to make your purchase decision a little easier. The Aura is Senville's top-of-the-line mini split. First up is the Aura line; this is the most discussed model series, and for good reason. It is the most energy-efficient system, garnering the Energy Star seal, which means it may qualify for rebates and tax credits. The end result is a lower energy bill and potential savings on installation. Finally, the outside compressor on the Aura heat pumps has a longer 10-year warranty. An affordable way to add heating and cooling to any space. The Leto series is a cheaper version of the Aura line and is considered their budget series. The systems are nearly identical from the outside as both feature a wall-mounted indoor unit. However, the Leto series is a little cheaper and less efficient. It is a good idea to carefully compare the savings of the Aura against Leto's lower price point. A compact option that can replace an existing wall-mounted radiator. I find the Sena units to be the most unique offering in the Senville lineup. There are a few other companies that offer similar models, but these wall-mounted units are still pretty uncommon. The outdoor unit will be the same one that comes with the Leto. Just remember that this unit cannot be mounted behind a bookcase or other piece of furniture since it needs room for airflow. Keeps the indoor unit out of sight by housing the components in the attic. These Senville mini splits come with ceiling cassettes rather than wall-mounted indoor units. The ceiling cassettes are arguably the most attractive option for a mini-split. The blower and evaporator coil are concealed in the attic, so you don't have to look at a clunky indoor unit. A metal box containing the blower and evaporator that easily connects existing ducts. A rarely discussed option for mini splits is ducted units. Senville's ducted option is great for connecting to existing ductwork while still getting the low cost and energy efficiency of a mini split. They are also easy to install and very compact. Allows multiple indoor units to connect to a single outdoor unit. Last but not least are the multi-zone heat pumps. These allow multiple indoor units to run on a single outdoor unit. This is an excellent way to add whole-house cooling where ductwork simply won't fit. I have even paired a mix of indoor systems, such as ceiling and ducted units, with dual-zone mini splits. HVAC installations can seem overwhelming for many people since the process is a little complicated. Fortunately, qualified HVAC technicians will attach the outdoor unit to a concrete block, mount the indoor air handler to the wall, connect the wiring, and run the drain line. They should also pressure test the refrigerant lines and check the refrigerant levels with a gauge set. When finished with the installation, the technician should show you how to control the unit and go over its features. Every company decides on its own prices, so pinpointing installation costs is nearly impossible. In addition to the cost of the unit, you can expect to spend at least \$1,000 for installation, assuming everything is very easy. Bear in mind that more difficult installations could cost a few thousand dollars. Costs will rise if an electrician is needed to run electrical to the new unit. That could be an additional \$500 to \$1,000 depending on how far away the unit is from the breaker panel. Although mini splits come with refrigerant, the installer may need to add more to compensate for longer linesets. Refrigerant has skyrocketed in price recently, so this could be \$100 or more. Other factors that may add to the cost of installation are where you plan to place the indoor and outdoor units. Wall mounting the outdoor unit will likely add a few hundred dollars to the overall cost since an extra bracket is required, and securely mounting it is time-consuming. Similarly, putting the indoor unit on an interior wall will also raise the cost and cause further complications. Multizone systems are the most expensive to install since they require pipes and wiring run to each indoor system. It could take an installer a day or more to complete the job, so I would expect to pay at least \$3,000. Many HVAC companies will not work on customer-purchased equipment, so I advise searching for a contractor before purchasing a mini split. I would start with smaller companies that may only have one or two technicians, as they are often more willing to work on customer-supplied equipment than a larger business. To prepare for your mini-split installation, keep these few tips in mind. Before purchasing, know the exact dimensions of the space the mini split is for and approximately how often you'll be using it. Have all furniture and items moved out of the way on installation day for the inside unit. Ensure that the outdoor unit will be easily accessed and not blocked by foliage, etc. Senville - 5/5 (Rating) "Very pleased! Install was easy and it's working great. No surprises!" Sylvain - 4/5 (Rating) "Awesome unit. My 2 complaints are: 1) The width given was 27in and was actually 30in. Luckily my space was 31in. 2) the delivery was postponed and pushed back twice. It made it 5 days prior to the wedding I was hosting. It works great and ultimately I'm very satisfied but why the unnecessary stress?" Walmart - 5/5 (Rating) "It was more than I expected. It works so well, and it's quiet." Senville - 5/5 (Rating) "Works great both heat and cool. The tech that performed the start-up said we got the best mini-split on the market, and we agreed." **Note: Reviews based on Senville Aura Mr Cool is by far the most recognizable mini split brand. The company does a lot of marketing and even sells the units through major retailers like Loves and Home Depot. The problem is that all of that marketing comes at an added cost for buyers. Surprisingly, I actually found a 9,000 BTU Mr Cool for only \$675 at IWAE compared to \$750 for a Senville. Of course, the prices of each model also vary quite a bit, and each company offers regular sales. Otherwise, Senville and Mr Cool mini splits are nearly identical. They each use the same rebranded condenser and evaporator units. The biggest difference is that Mr Cool makes a DIY model. The refrigerant lines on these systems are precharged, so there is no need to vacuum them. I consider Pioneer a decent brand, but they are nearly identical to Mr Cool and Senville. The systems are all made by Gree and use Midea compressors. Pioneer is one of the more recognizable mini split brands in the US since they've been around much longer than some of the competition. Pioneer also offers a wide range of indoor units, just like Senville. I personally wouldn't hesitate to buy a Pioneer unit, but it is probably best to compare prices between Senville, Pioneer, and Mr Cool. The cheapest Pioneer mini split I could find was the 9,000 BTU for \$700, compared to the Senville's \$750 price tag. Daikin stands on its own because it is one of the few mini-split companies that doesn't sell a rebranded unit. The company is headquartered in Japan rather than China, and the overall quality tends to be better. HVAC techs in the US are also more likely to work on Daikin systems and source parts for them since they also own major brands such as Amana and Goodman. Daikin units are very reliable and high-quality, but their downside is their high cost. Expect to pay significantly more money for a Daikin than a Senville. The upside is that a Daikin mini-split should last significantly longer. Daikin systems are a little bit more challenging to find, but I did come across one for \$865. That is a little over \$100 more for a 9,000 BTU than the Senville. Additionally, it is less efficient at 17 SEER than the Senville, which is 20.5 SEER. Senville AC units are manufactured by Gree and are made in China. A large number of mini splits on the market are identical and sold under various brand names. There may be slight variations, but the core components are the same. Yes, Senville mini splits come with R410a refrigerant already in the compressor. They have enough refrigerant for the 16-ft line set, but longer lines may require extra refrigerant. Finally, the lines must be vacuumed before the refrigerant is released from the compressor. Senville mini splits use R410a refrigerant, which is what the majority of home air conditioners use. Plans are underway to phase out R410a in the coming years, but I wouldn't be too concerned about that when purchasing a mini split. Senville mini splits fill a void in the market that was previously only available with window and portable air conditioners. Although I usually don't recommend mini splits as a replacement for an entire home's existing system, they are a great way to add heating and cooling to a new addition or a garage. If you're looking at Senville mini splits, let me recommend the Aura Series. Their energy efficient models and WiFi compatibility make them one of the smartest mini splits on the market. Was This Article Helpful? My Favorite Home Appliance? Midea U Shaped Window Air Conditioner Josh Mitchell Read the latest from Josh Mitchell :