Why Geothermal?

Geothermal is perfect for those who want to dramatically reduce their energy usage, save money on bills, and enjoy a more even, consistent comfort in their home. Over the next few pages we’ll tell you a little more about geothermal and show you how you can benefit from a technology that’s Smarter from the Ground Up™.

The 5 Series

As the upgrade to our popular Envision product line, the 5 Series™ carries some of our best features and efficiencies. The 5 Series upholds the standards we’ve set over three decades and the trust associated with the WaterFurnace name. Every unit is computer run-tested to ensure flawless performance at start-up—and in the unlikely event your equipment needs service, it’s backed by the best warranties in the industry. The 500R11 features advanced components to offer a level of comfort and savings that’s far greater than any ordinary system and represents an amazing 25.3 EER and 4.4 COP.

The 500R11 is engineered for use where an all-in-one unit would be difficult to install, like attics or crawl spaces, and is the perfect solution for retrofitting existing homes. By connecting to the WaterFurnace SAH Air Handler, the 500R11 can provide ultra-efficient heating, cooling, and even a portion of your home’s hot water. The 500R11 is also great for use in extremely cold climates where a dual-fuel application is ideal. The unit uses the clean, renewable, comfortable energy from the earth and switches to fossil fuels only during the coldest parts of the winter. It’s ENERGY STAR rated and was developed in the HVAC industry’s only in-house EPA/ENERGY STAR Recognized laboratory. Tap into the earth to achieve a level of comfort you have to experience to believe.

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Smarter from the Ground Up™

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Geothermal heat pumps are not only the most comfortable way to heat and cool, they’re also the most cost-effective. They’re versatile enough to excel in almost any home or any environment, and you’ll find geothermal in more than 1 million households across Canada and all 50 U.S. states. They can be scaled for single-family homes to entire college campuses. In fact, we heat and cool our entire 110,000 square-foot headquarters with WaterFurnace equipment. Here are a few reasons why geothermal is one of the fastest growing technologies available for your home.

Comfort that gives back
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GEO TAX CREDIT

Comfortable
WaterFurnace units are designed to run more often at low speeds to provide stable temperatures throughout the house, without the extreme swings you miss spots. They provide a comfort you need to experience to believe. To achieve precise control over temperatures in up to 4 areas, add our IntelliZone2 zoning system.

Reliable
Because geothermal units aren’t subjected to the punishing effects of outdoor weather or fuel combustion, they last longer than nearly any other heating and cooling system. According to the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, geothermal units have an average equipment life of 25 years while the underground loop system has a rated material life of more than 100 years. Ordinary air conditioners, furnaces, and heat pumps are rated for only 12-18 years. Ordinary air conditioners, furnaces, and heat pumps are rated for only 12-18 years.

Safe
Because no natural gas, propane, or oil is used in a geothermal installation, it’s the safest method of heating and cooling available for your home. And when the SDORTI is installed with an existing forced air furnace for backup, the majority of heating is done with geothermal so the backup system is rarely used.

Quiet
WaterFurnace systems don’t require noisy outdoor units that can disturb your peaceful surroundings or create unsightly additions to your home’s appearance. We’ve also taken a number of steps to ensure your unit is as quiet as possible so you can enjoy the peaceful, clean comfort that only geothermal can provide.

Environmentally Friendly
Geothermal systems are recognized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as the most environmentally friendly, cost effective and energy efficient heating and cooling technology available. These systems also minimize the threats of acid rain, air pollution, the greenhouse effect and global warming—problems directly linked to the burning of fossil fuels. In fact, installing a single geothermal unit is the environmental equivalent of planting 750 trees or removing two cars from the road.

Cost Effective
Because of the extraordinary efficiency of geothermal heat pumps, homeowners save more on monthly bills than they pay for the system when installation costs are added to the mortgage. Any added investment over traditional equipment is usually recovered in just a few years, and many homeowners see a return on investment of 10-20% over the life of the system.

No Fossil Fuels
When installed with a WaterFurnace Air handler, no fossil fuels are used in a SDORTI installation. WaterFurnace systems don’t create heat—they simply move it to and from the quiet as possible so you can enjoy the peaceful, clean comfort that only geothermal can provide.

Extra savings for geothermal
A 26% tax credit on equipment and installation costs is currently available to U.S. homeowners who install an ENERGY STAR rated geothermal system. The credit can be used to offset both AMT and regular income taxes and can be carried forward into future years.

Flexible
One compact WaterFurnace unit provides heating, central air conditioning, and supplemental hot water for your entire home. Both indoor and outdoor units are available for a wide range of home applications, including newly constructed as well as existing homes. No matter what climate you live in, your WaterFurnace system will deliver.

Energy Efficient
WaterFurnace systems are rated number one in energy efficiency because they can deliver more than five units of energy for every one unit of electrical energy used. Compare that to even the best ordinary system that delivers less than one unit of energy for every unit it consumes. That translates into an efficiency rating exceeding 440%, compared to the most efficient gas furnace which rates only 86%.
A geothermal heat pump (GHP) taps into the renewable solar energy stored in the ground to provide savings up to 70% on bills. Using a series of underground pipes, it exchanges heat with the earth instead of outdoor air. While air temperatures can vary greatly from day to night or winter to summer, the temperature just a few feet below the earth’s surface stays an average 55°-70°F year-round.

**Fossil Fuel Furnace**

Ordinary furnaces return less than 98¢ of heat for each dollar spent burning polluting fossil fuels, while a geothermal system returns up to five dollars of heat for each dollar spent on electricity. That’s because our units don’t create heat through combustion. They simply collect and move it.

**Traditional Air Conditioner**

Summer air is already saturated with heat and is less willing to accept more. Thanks to the constant temperature of the earth, geothermal is more than twice as efficient at cooling than any ordinary heat pump or air conditioner.

**Using the earth to heat & cool**

The geothermal difference

**Summer cooling**

As outdoor temperatures rise, a GHP collects the unwanted heat in your home and moves it to the cooler 55° earth. Meanwhile, ordinary heat pumps and air conditioners are forced to dump that heat outside. Unfortunately, hot summer air is already saturated with heat and is less willing to accept more. That makes ordinary cooling systems least efficient when you need them to be the most efficient.

**Winter heating**

As outdoor temperatures fall, a GHP draws from an underground reservoir of heat, concentrates it, and moves it to your home. Meanwhile, an ordinary heat pump is forced to collect heat from frigid winter air, making it least efficient when you need it to be the most efficient. And unlike a furnace, our units don’t create heat through combustion. They simply collect and move it.

Note: Illustration represents how geothermal works and is not to scale. Loops are generally 4-6 feet below the earth’s surface and between 150-400 feet long. The average year-round ground temperature only three to four feet beneath the frost line is 55°-70°F.
The heart of a geothermal system

Geothermal earth loops

A geothermal system uses a series of underground pipes called a “loop.” The earth loop eliminates the need for fossil fuels. It’s the heart of a geothermal system and its biggest advantage over ordinary heating and cooling technologies. The type of loop used is based on available land space and installation costs for specific areas.

Horizontal Loop
Used where adequate land is available, horizontal loops involve one or more trenches that are dug using a backhoe or chain trencher. High density polyethylene pipes are inserted, and the trenches are backfilled. A typical home requires 1/4 to 3/4 of an acre for the trenches.

Vertical Loop
Vertical loops are used when space is limited. Holes are bored using a drilling rig, and a pair of pipes with special u-bend fittings is inserted into the holes. A typical home requires three to five bores with about a 15-foot separation between the holes.

Pond Loop
If an adequately sized body of water is close to your home, a pond loop can be installed. A series of coiled, closed loops are sunk to the bottom of the body of water. A 1/2-acre, 8-foot-deep pond is usually sufficient for the average home.

Open Loop
An open loop is used where there is an abundant supply of quality well water. The well must have enough capacity to provide adequate flow for both domestic use and the WaterFurnace unit. 5 Series units require 3-10 GPM, depending on size.

Directional Bore
Perfect for homeowners who need minimal landscape disruption, these loop types take advantage of the space available below ground. A directional bore loop can be installed either vertically or horizontally depending on yard space.

HyperLoop - Pond
Perfect for pond and lake geothermal applications, this prefabricated and compact loop greatly reduces loop build and installation time.

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Paired with an SAH Air Handler—all geothermal

The SAH Air Handler is a perfect match to the 500R11. It features an ECM blower motor for the ultimate in efficiency and electric backup heat for those rare instances where you need an extra boost of heating. It’s field convertible and offers quiet and efficient comfort.

Paired with a fossil fuel furnace—dual fuel

By installing the 500R11 with the WaterFurnace A-Coil (cased or uncased) and an existing fossil fuel furnace, the system can select the most efficient method of heating and switch between fossil fuel and geothermal. Perfect for colder climates, a dual fuel application will always keep you warm and cozy.

Which configuration is right for your home comfort?

WaterFurnace 5 Series Splits are engineered for homes with limited indoor utility space or in cold winter climates where a dual fuel application is desired. By installing the 500R11 with our SAH Air Handler, you can heat, cool, and provide a portion of your home’s hot water efficiently and effectively. In areas with very cold winters, a dual fuel application can be a good option. In this application, the geothermal unit is paired with an existing fossil fuel furnace and a cased or uncased coil and can automatically choose which method of heating is most efficient—saving you money. That’s both smart and flexible.
Compact design meets ultimate performance

Components of the 5 Series

Design Components:
1. Cabinet: The cabinet comes standard with a professional grade finish for long-lasting beauty and protection. The system is fully insulated for quiet operation with cleanable foil-backed insulation.

2. Aurora Interface Diagnostic Port: WaterFurnace is the first to offer an external communication port, which allows service and diagnosis of our units without ever having to open them.

3. Hot Water Generation: With an optional hot water assist, the 5 Series 500R11 preheats your water and delivers it to your water heater. The longer the unit operates, the greater the amount of hot water generated.

4. ThermaShield™: Our exclusive coaxial heat exchanger coating protects against condensation for temperatures below 50°F, extending its life.

5. Compressor: For superb efficiency and reliability, dual capacity units utilize Scroll UltraTech™ compressors, while high-efficiency Copeland Scroll™ compressors are featured in the single-stage units. All compressors are double isolation mounted for extra quiet operation.

7. IntelliStart: This optional soft starter reduces start-up amperage by up to 60% of normal draw to reduce noise, eliminate light flicker, and increase compressor life.

ISO/AHRI 13256-1

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7. Aurora Controls: The powerful Aurora Data Control (ADC), (Wi-Fi) two-way communication between components, advanced diagnostic logic, and robust troubleshooting capabilities. The Aurora Expansion Board (AXB) with support for true energy monitoring as well as compatibility with the Symphony Home Comfort Platform and our IntelliZone2 zoning system.
Choosing the right accessories can greatly improve the comfort levels in your home and can even allow you to expand the functionality of your existing WaterFurnace system. Each item has been designed to work hand in hand with your system to allow flawless and convenient operation. Here are some of our most popular accessories. Visit waterfurnace.com to learn more.

**GeoTank®**

The WaterFurnace GeoTank is simply the best way to capture free preheated water from your unit’s hot water generator or a separate 500W11 single hydronic hot water generation unit.*

* GeoTank is to be used in series with another hot water heater

**SAH Air Handler**

When installed in conjunction with the SAH Air Handler, the SOA/E indoor split can provide efficient and comfortable heating and cooling for your home. The SAH features a variable speed ECM fan motor for maximum comfort and efficiencies while maintaining a slim cabinet for ease of installation. Combining comfort with versatility, the SAH Air Handler can enhance your 5 Series S0A/E to provide the ultimate in heating and cooling for your home.

**TP32U03/04 Elite Programmable**

This powerful thermostat is great for any system—single or dual stage units with ECM or PSC blower motors. Dual fuel capability, text-based output and Comfort Talk are some of the features that make this thermostat a versatile and dependable choice.

**TPCC32U01 Deluxe Touch-Screen**

A beautiful communicating color touch-screen thermostat that provides intuitive comfort control. This programmable thermostat can also provide instantaneous and 13 month energy monitoring history.* The TPCC32U01 features 2 heat and 2 cool stages, dual fuel capabilities, Comfort Talk, error communication, humidity control, outdoor sensor and more. TPCC32U01 is energy monitoring requires our AXB advanced controls.

**IntelliZone2 – 24v**

The IntelliZone2 gives you the power to precisely control temperatures in multiple areas of your home. In the 500R11, it can control two different zones with a single stage unit and four different zones with a dual capacity system. The result is the ultimate in comfort and cost savings. You’ve already chosen the finest heating and cooling system available; now choose the most advanced zoning system available to control it.

**TP32W03 Touch-Screen**

This thermostat is made for use with single or dual stage units that feature an ECM blower motor. It features 3 heat stages and 2 cool stages and dual fuel capabilities. With a sleek touch-screen display, this programmable thermostat will look great in any home.

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The WaterFurnace name has been synonymous with geothermal since we were founded in 1983. Over the years we’ve worked to innovate new technologies, integrate key trends and grow our core business to represent clean and sustainable solutions. Our units combine sound engineering with the highest levels of quality control to provide you with some of the most efficient heating and cooling systems on the planet.

WaterFurnace—Smarter from the Ground Up.

ISO Accreditations: