

Media Release

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No sweat – use a plumber with the correct credentials to install air-conditioning

With another hot summer in the offing, many Victorian homeowners are considering installing air-conditioning to keep cool and comfortable.

Australian Bureau of Statistic figures show that nearly half of Australian households cool their homes using reverse-cycle air-conditioning. Approximately 10 per cent use refrigerated air-conditioning and 13 per cent use evaporative systems.

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA), which regulates the building and plumbing industries, reminds homeowners that air-conditioners must be installed by an appropriately licensed or registered plumbing practitioner.

VBA Director of Licensing and Registration, Jeff Gilmore, said it was important homeowners understand their rights as consumers and the obligations of those installing air-conditioning.

“Many systems purchased from large retailers will include the option of installation in the price, but some people wish to arrange installation themselves,” says Mr Gilmore.

“Installing an air-conditioning system is not a do-it-yourself job – you must use a plumber who is licensed or registered in the appropriate class of plumbing to carry out the work. Ask to see their current plumbing practitioner photo ID card or go to the ‘Find a Practitioner’ link on the VBA website to check their bona fides.”

You will also need an electrician who holds a Restricted Electrical Workers Licence, issued by Energy Safe Victoria (www.esv.vic.gov.au).

Mr Gilmore said that within five days of installation, the plumber should provide a compliance certificate, which is required for all plumbing work costing more than \$750 (including appliances and labour). A compliance certificate certifies that it complies with the relevant standards, codes and regulations. It also provides a warranty for the installation for six years.

“Significant penalties apply for people who conduct work without being appropriately licensed or registered with the VBA, and for plumbing practitioners who fail to provide a client with a compliance certificate where one is required. The latter offence can lead to suspension or cancellation of a licence,” says Mr Gilmore.

To report a case where plumbing work has been done by someone holding themselves out to be a registered or licensed practitioner, or you believe you should have received a compliance certificate, contact the VBA on **1300 815 127** or visit www.vba.vic.gov.au

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Media enquiries: Communications Manager, Craig Little – 03 9618 9316 | craig.little@vba.vic.gov.au