Geothermal heating and cooling systems are proven to be the most efficient, comfort delivering systems on the market. However, if you choose the wrong contractor you may not get all the benefits of a geothermal system due to improper design, sizing or installation.

The Iowa Geothermal Association is comprised of members who want you to be completely satisfied with your decision to install geothermal heating and cooling. This comparison checklist will help you choose the best geothermal contractor for your dwelling. After all, it’s a decision you will live with for a very long time!

Dealer name #1 ____________________________________
Dealer name #2 ____________________________________
Dealer name #3 ____________________________________

Check the boxes that apply:        #1 #2 #3

- Dealer has previously installed geothermal systems for how many years: ______
- Dealer has been in business for how many years: ______
- Dealer has provided a list of references for me to check:
- Dealer has provided me a firm price and detailed proposal:

The Dealer is Trained and Certified in:

- ACCA Manual J Heat loss/gain calculations:
- ACCA Manual D duct design and installation:
- International Ground Source Heat Pump Assn. (IGHSPA);
- Loop design and installation including fusion welding:
- Certified by the Manufacture of the heat pump being sold:

The Dealer is a member of:

- The Iowa Geothermal Association (you can find an IGAA member listing at www.iowageothermal.org)
- The Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA):
- The Better Business Bureau, in good standing:
- Has a current Iowa mechanical license and is bonded/insured:

The Dealer:

- Performed a heat loss/gain calculation to size the equipment:
- Explained to me the proper steps for sizing the heat pump & loop field to the heating and cooling demands of my home:
- Explained to me how the design of the system is to maintain a minimum indoor temperature of 68°F at the proper outdoor design temperature for Iowa:
- Explained to me how the design of the system is to maintain a maximum indoor temperature of 78°F at the proper outdoor design temperature for Iowa:
- Given me an estimate of the annual operating costs of the system:
- Asked me about future plans for additions or remodeling:
- Explained to me that the loop design minimum entering water temperature will be no less than 25°F during the coldest time of winter:
- Provides emergency 24-hour service:
The Dealer Discussed the Following Topics:

- What will be the best options and sizing of any supplemental heat source for the geothermal system:
- The location of the systems entry into the home:
- The importance of adequate insulation and minimizing air infiltration:
- The importance of air quality, filtration and ventilation:
- The importance of proper duct design and sizing:
- The importance of properly balancing the system:
- The operation and maintenance of the system:
- The manufacturer’s warranty:
- The dealer’s warranty:
- Utility and government rebates and what they may or may not include:
- Additional costs such as electrical/landscaping if not all included in firm offer:
- If considering an open loop system, the advantages and disadvantages of it versus a closed loop system:

Dealer

Total number of points per contractor: