

# **Load Calculator Frequently Asked Questions**

## **What is LOAD CALCULATOR?**

**LOAD CALCULATOR** is a residential block heat loss/heat gain load calculation program for existing homes. It is intended to allow the contractor to make a quick assessment of the house load when replacing an existing system.

## **Is LOAD CALCULATOR ACCA Manual J approved?**

LOAD CALCULATOR is not yet ACCA Manual J approved. However, approval will be sought soon. You need only perform a full-detailed load calculation if the job is sold and required by a local municipality. Few municipalities require an ACCA load. LOAD CALCULATOR is a consumer engagement and education tool designed to be user and consumer friendly and help close sales. Many local code enforcement officials will accept LOAD CALCULATOR as an approved equal. If you need an ACCA Manual J approved load calculation, we recommend RHVAC by Elite Software ([elite.com](http://elite.com)).

## **Can I use LOAD CALCULATOR for commercial applications?**

No. Commercial buildings have many design considerations not found in typical residential applications. Even houses converted to commercial use, fall into a commercial load category, which require more comprehensive calculations involving people, make-up air, lighting, appliances, occupation times, variable time-of-use loads, etc. that LOAD CALCULATOR purposefully is not designed to address. Please, reference ACCA Manual N for more information on commercial loads. If you need to perform a commercial load calculation, we recommend Elite Software ([elite.com](http://elite.com)) programs - RHVAC for some light commercial applications and CHVAC for large commercial applications.

## **Can I use LOAD CALCULATOR for residential new construction?**

LOAD CALCULATOR is designed for use with existing houses. The baseline information is retrieved from local tax records. Tax records do not exist until the house is completed and occupied. Also, room-by-room load calculations are necessary in new construction for duct design purposes.

## **Is calculating a load as simple as entering a street address and zip code?**

NO! Absolutely not! Those 2 pieces of information start the process and may be very accurate, but are not a substitute for performing a full survey of the home and then verifying or modifying the data points of load data to get an accurate calculation. There is no database on the planet currently that contains all such data points for homes.

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## **What if I need a room-by-room load calculation?**

LOAD CALCULATOR is built for speed, convenience and accuracy, which is accomplished with a block to determine for verify required equipment size and total heat loss/gain and airflow required to make the home comfortable. If you need to perform a room-by-room load calculation, we recommend RHVAC by Elite Software ([elite.com](http://elite.com)).

## **What should I do if my local inspector will not accept LOAD CALCULATOR?**

In some situations, local inspectors are not familiar with LOAD CALCULATOR and its capabilities. If an inspector declines a LOAD CALCULATOR load, contact [support@eds.tech](mailto:support@eds.tech). Be sure to provide specifics of the case. For example, address, zip code, permit number, inspect name and contact information. If your salesperson cannot resolve the issue, they will escalate it to the appropriate LOAD CALCULATOR representative. LOAD CALCULATOR representatives are always happy to work with dealers and local code officials.

## **Why does my load calculation have negative values?**

Negative load values are often the result of an incorrect zip code or a zip code not yet in the database. Always double check the zip code entered. One use of the zip code is to retrieve location information and set the load design conditions. If the zip code is entered correctly, simply manually enter the design conditions. Also, email [support@eds.tech](mailto:support@eds.tech) with the information so LOAD CALCULATOR functionality can be improved.

## **Why is the square footage listed incorrect?**

LOAD CALCULATOR uses tax record information from Zillow.com to establish the baseline for the house. If the house has been modified, such as enclosing an attached garage, without notifying the tax office, the square footage will be incorrect. Simply enter the actual square footage and proceed.

## **What is the significant of a 1700 square foot home?**

If tax records are not available via Zillow.com, LOAD CALCULATOR will default to 1700 square feet. If this value is listed, verify actual square footage before proceeding.

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## **What is meant by “primary direction” of windows?**

The single most impactful item with regard to cooling loads is fenestration (window) heat gain. Solar radiation is very significant. To provide accurate results in this area, area of the window as well as the direction with the most glass surface area must enter correctly. Simply click the arrow indicating the facing direction with the most window area.