

If your actual route from the indoor head to the outdoor unit is about 28 feet, the usual answer is to choose the 35-foot MRCOOL line set—not the 25-foot set. A 25-foot set is too short if <https://homesandexterior.com/best-diy-mini-split-heat-pump-2026-mrcool-vs-competitors/> the measured, installed route really needs 28 feet, and line sets generally aren't something to splice or stretch to make up the difference.

That leaves roughly 7 feet of extra line to manage. Before buying, though, verify the exact MRCOOL system and its installation manual: line-set options, permitted lengths, elevation limits, and routing rules can vary by model and generation. The extra length is manageable when planned correctly; hiding it in a tight coil behind the outdoor unit is not a good shortcut.

First, Measure the Route—not the Straight-Line Distance

Measure the path the tubing will actually follow, from the indoor unit's connection point to the outdoor unit's connection point. Include the rises, drops, turns, and any detour needed to avoid a window, roof edge, electrical equipment, or other obstruction. A 28-foot distance across a room or along a wall can require a longer line set once the route is laid out.

Also check whether the manufacturer specifies a minimum line-set length. Some mini-split systems have minimum and maximum piping requirements, as well as limits on vertical separation. Don't assume that trimming a longer set or using the shortest available set is automatically acceptable. Follow the instructions for the precise model you're installing.

What to Do With a 35-Foot Line Set on a 28-Foot Run

If the approved set is 35 feet and your properly measured route is 28 feet, you'll need to manage about 7 feet of excess. The installation manual is the authority on whether a particular line set may be shortened. With a pre-charged DIY system, do not cut, flare, disconnect, or alter the refrigerant connections unless the manufacturer explicitly allows that procedure and you're qualified to perform it. Altering a sealed line set can release refrigerant, introduce moisture or dirt, and create a leak that may be difficult to diagnose.

Where the product instructions permit it, excess tubing is commonly routed in a generous, smooth loop near the outdoor unit. Keep bends broad, protect the tubing from damage, and secure it so it doesn't rub against siding or vibrate against other equipment. Avoid a small, tight coil or several sharp bends. A badly formed **coil excess line set** can kink the tubing, stress connections, and make future service harder.

Plan the extra length before mounting equipment

- Mock up the route with a tape measure or temporary cord before drilling the wall opening.
- Confirm the outdoor unit has space for the approved routing and service access.
- Keep tubing away from sharp edges, hot exhaust, and places where snow, landscaping, or foot traffic may damage it.
- Follow the specified bend radius and support spacing; don't force tubing around a tight corner.
- Check the installation guide for restrictions on coiling, cutting, and line-set orientation.

In a garage, for example, the tempting route may be straight across the wall, but a door track, shelving, or vehicle clearance can change the real path. In a bedroom, the concern may be keeping the line-hide neat and avoiding a

route that puts the wall penetration in an awkward location. I've seen this play out countless times: was shocked by the final bill.. Measure for the finished installation, not just the easiest path during rough-in.

Can You Use a 25-Foot Set for a 28-Foot Run?

Not if the installed route truly needs 28 feet. A line set that is three feet short can put tension on connections, force an improper route, or leave you considering an unsafe splice. Don't pull the indoor and outdoor units closer together in a way that compromises drainage, clearances, service access, or the intended room layout just to make the shorter set reach.

Recheck your measurement first. If the final route is actually 25 feet or less and complies with the model's requirements, the shorter option may work. If it remains 28 feet, ask the seller or manufacturer whether a model-approved line-set option or accessory is available. Avoid third-party adapters or extensions unless the equipment manufacturer approves them for that exact system.

What "DIY Mini Split" Means in 2026

In 2026, a DIY mini split generally means a system designed to simplify certain installation steps for a homeowner—often through factory-sealed or pre-charged line-set connections. It does not mean every part of the project is tool-free, permit-free, or exempt from electrical and mechanical rules.



Think about it: even a diy-friendly system involves decisions about wall penetrations, condensate drainage, mounting, weather protection, clearances, and electrical supply. Depending on the equipment and local rules, the outdoor unit may need a dedicated circuit, correctly sized conductors and overcurrent protection, a disconnect, and a permit or inspection. Have an electrician verify the circuit and local requirements rather than treating a plug, breaker, or wire size as interchangeable between models.

Pre-charged connections also don't guarantee an effortless warranty experience. Keep receipts, photos, model and serial numbers, and records of any required registration. Read the warranty terms before installation and ask what documentation is needed if a leak or performance problem appears. A claim may depend on following the manual and supplying proof—not simply on having bought the equipment.

MRCOOL, Zone Air, or Cooper&Hunter: What's the Value Tradeoff?

MRCOOL is often considered by homeowners looking for a DIY-oriented mini split with a system and connection approach intended to make installation more accessible. That convenience can be valuable if the layout fits the offered line-set lengths and you're comfortable handling the permitted DIY work. If a 28-foot route forces a longer set and careful excess-line management, include that routing challenge in your budget and plan.

Zone Air may be worth comparing when you want help selecting equipment or sourcing parts for a particular room and installation. Compare the actual system specifications, included components, support, and return terms—not just the product-page price. Confirm who answers installation questions, whether the proposed line set is approved for the unit, and what happens if a part arrives damaged or the measured route doesn't fit the package.

Cooper&Hunter is another name shoppers may encounter while comparing ductless systems. Evaluate it on the same practical basis: model-specific heating and cooling performance, electrical requirements, controls, warranty terms, and the availability of compatible accessories. Don't assume two units are equivalent because they share a nominal BTU rating or look similar in a listing.

What to compare Why it matters Approved line-set lengths and connection type A 28-foot route may call for a 35-foot set, and not every system handles excess or alterations the same way. Heating capacity at low outdoor temperatures Nominal capacity alone doesn't tell you how well a unit heats during a cold snap. Electrical specifications and local code Breaker, wire, disconnect, and permit needs can affect the real installed cost. Support, warranty, and return terms Clear assistance and realistic claim requirements matter if installation or performance goes wrong. Controls and smart-home compatibility Confirm whether the exact model supports the app or Google Assistant functions you want.

For an additional perspective, you can read Trustpilot reviews for mrcool.com. Treat reviews as one input, not a substitute for checking the manual, support options, or warranty. Customer experiences can reflect shipping, installation, or service issues that may not apply to your specific model.

SEER2 and Operating Cost: Compare Numbers, Not Slogans

SEER2 measures seasonal cooling efficiency under a standardized test procedure. A higher SEER2 rating can mean less electricity used for a given amount of cooling under those test conditions, but it doesn't predict your exact bill by itself. Heating efficiency, local weather, electricity rates, room insulation, thermostat settings, and system sizing all affect real-world energy use.

For a simple cooling-only comparison, the seasonal energy use per unit of cooling generally falls as SEER2 rises. But avoid claims that a system is "high efficiency" without giving the actual SEER2 number and the model it applies to. Compare matched capacities, and check the product's heating rating and low-temperature capacity if the mini split will heat the space.

A garage used occasionally may not need the same operating schedule as a bedroom occupied every night. That difference can outweigh a modest efficiency-rating gap. Use a load calculation or qualified installer's assessment to size the unit for the room; oversizing can lead to short cycling and uneven comfort, while undersizing can leave the space struggling in extreme weather.

Cold-Climate Performance and "Hyper Heat"

"Hyper Heat" is a product or marketing term used for certain cold-weather heat-pump offerings; it is not a universal performance guarantee. Before buying any system for a cold climate, find the exact model's heating

capacity and operating limits at low outdoor temperatures. Check the temperature cutoff—the point below which the unit may stop heating or require another heat source—and see how much capacity remains above that cutoff.

Don't rely on a broad statement that a system "works in winter." A unit might continue operating at a low temperature but deliver less heat than your room requires. That matters in a bedroom where overnight comfort is important, and in a garage where the building may have poor insulation and a high heat loss. Ask for the manufacturer's performance table for the actual model, not just a family name or headline rating.

Also consider backup heat, defrost behavior, condensate management, and snow clearance around the outdoor unit. Cold-weather capability is a system-planning question, not just a feature label.

Google Assistant and Controls

If voice control matters, confirm Google Assistant compatibility for the exact indoor unit, Wi-Fi module, app, and region. Support can depend on the specific controller or accessory, and a product listing may describe app control without promising every Google Assistant function. Check whether voice commands are limited to basic settings such as on/off and temperature, and whether the system needs a separate Wi-Fi accessory.. Pretty simple.

Bottom Line: For 28 Feet, Start With the 35-Foot Option

For a genuine 28-foot installed route, a 35-foot MRCOOL line set is the likely choice among 16-, 25-, 35-, and 50-foot options, provided the exact system's manual allows it. Plan for the roughly 7 feet of extra tubing: route it neatly with broad bends, and don't cut, coil tightly, splice, or modify a pre-charged set unless the manufacturer explicitly approves the method.

1. Measure the full installed route, including bends and elevation changes.
2. Verify minimum and maximum line lengths and all routing rules in the model manual.
3. Confirm the electrical work, permit, and warranty requirements before ordering.
4. Compare SEER2, low-temperature heating capacity, cutoff temperatures, and support across brands.
5. Ask the seller or manufacturer how excess line should be handled for your exact system.

That last check is especially useful if you're weighing MRCOOL against Zone Air or Cooper&Hunter. The right value is the system that fits the room, climate, route, electrical setup, and service expectations—not simply the one with the lowest advertised price.

