

DUCTWORK INSTALLED COST								
	ROUND		MULTI ROUND		OVAL		RECT	
DUCT WT / COST	912	\$1,738	1019	\$1,791	1082	\$1,932	1167	\$1,910
HANGING TIME	31.9	\$1,915	35.7	\$2,140	37.9	\$2,272	40.8	\$2,451
LINEAL FT OF SEALING	154		184		157		607	
SEALING TIME	6.2	\$185	7.4	\$221	6.3	\$188	24.3	\$728
GALLONS OF DUCT SEALER	2	\$30	2	\$30	2	\$30	6	\$90
TOTAL		\$3,868		\$4,182		\$4,423		\$5,179

We designed 4 equivalent duct systems, one round, one oval, one multiple round in lieu of oval, and one rectangle, serving the same space with 6,000 cfm of air discharged from 16 diffusers. We canvassed several contractors around the country to price out the installation of these functionally equivalent systems. The results, rectangle duct was the most expensive to install. Even when we added in our cost of fabrication rectangle came out in last place as it was only slightly cheaper than oval to fabricate.

There are two major extra costs associated with rectangular duct. First is the initial hanging time is greater because rectangle is provided in nominal 5' pieces while round and oval are provided in lengths up to 12' long. It isn't the weight of the duct you are hanging, though again rectangle is the heaviest, but the number of connections you need to make in the field. Second is the time to seal the duct. Rectangle has more perimeter than round and oval and again, more connections than spiral systems. To properly seal rectangle you can expect to use not just more labor but a lot more expensive duct sealer.