

Heating Buyer's Guide



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Have you been considering a replacement heating system for your home? Heating systems are a substantial purchase, and a necessary one. That's why it's so important that you select the appropriate one for your home, lifestyle, and budget. Today, there are many options available, and a variety of brands on the market. And while that gives you many choices, it also can make it more difficult to know if you're choosing the right system for your needs.



3 IMPORTANT THINGS YOU'LL WANT TO KNOW WHEN IT COMES TO SELECTING HEATING EQUIPMENT

1. CHOOSE THE RIGHT SIZE FOR YOUR HOME.

The best way to know that your home heating equipment has been sized appropriately for your home is by working with an HVAC professional. A reputable HVAC company will know how to analyze your home's space and energy needs. Why is sizing so important? If your furnace is too small, your home won't get adequately heated, especially when it's extremely cold outside. Or, if your furnace is too large, it will waste energy, and components will wear out because of frequent on-and-off cycling.

2. CONSIDER ENERGY EFFICIENCY.

Is your current system more than 10 years old? If so, it has considerably declined in efficiency. Because of technological advances made in recent years, today's furnaces and boilers now offer much higher efficiencies than. And, highly efficient heating systems such as heat pumps and ductless systems have become more popular, and more accessible. Both of these types of systems provide optimal energy efficiency coupled with effective heating.

3. RESEARCH YOUR INSTALLER, TOO.

Just as important as the type and brand of equipment you choose is selecting a reputable HVAC dealer. They should be affiliated with organizations such as NATE (North American Technician Excellence). Look into whether or not they offer ongoing training for their technicians in order to keep them up-to-date on new technologies and equipment. Look at their Better Business Bureau listing, as well as online reviews.

Different Types of Heating Systems



FURNACES

There are two types of furnaces available for home heating. Oil furnaces, as you'd expect, use fuel oil, while gas furnaces use natural gas. Generally speaking, gas furnaces are more efficient than oil, and most people in the Northeast choose to heat their homes with furnaces or boilers. However, other systems, such as heat pumps and geothermal systems, are becoming more common as technologies improve.



BOILERS

Like furnaces, most boiler systems use gas or oil to operate. If your home has radiant heat, then you use a boiler. Modern boilers are built to be much more efficient than were boilers in the past. Many reach rates of 95% efficiency or more.



HEAT PUMPS

Many people aren't sure about heat pump systems because they've heard they only are effective in warmer climates. However, heat pump technology has improved, making them a viable choice even in states like New York where winters are colder. They are one of the most energy efficient options available because they work by extracting heat from the ground or air.



DUCTLESS HEATING

Ductless heating operates with heat pump technology, making it a very efficient method of heating your home. And, ductless systems can provide zoned, targeted comfort, which leads to even greater efficiency. This is a perfect option for homes that don't have a duct system and needs baseboard or electric heat replaced.

Still Need More Info?

CHECK OUT THESE OTHER CREDIBLE AND HELPFUL SOURCES:

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

If anybody knows their stuff, it's the most official research in the U.S.! The Department of Energy has great stats and data to help you make the most out of your heating system this year.

ENERGY STAR

According to their own words, "Energy Star is the government-backed symbol for energy efficiency, providing simple, credible, and unbiased information that consumers and businesses rely on to make well-informed decisions."

ANGIE'S LIST

Angie's List, an online review-collecting service, has an extremely detailed breakdown of different systems that will help you narrow down what's best for your home.

SMARTER HOUSE

Smarter House is a resource for home energy efficiency, and they provide a useful overview of home heating systems.

THE SPRUCE

A reliable source for home tips, The Spruce has an awesome guide to all different kinds of home.

Take the Next Step getting the heating system you need for your home. John Betlem works with you, your home and your budget to provide you with the best, most efficient heating system possible.

I WANT BETTER HOME COMFORT