Home Heating

Efficiency

Measuring a Heating System's Efficiency

- Boiler, heat pump, active solar heating systems are efficient.
- Furnaces are the most common type of home heating system.
- The efficiency of your heating system can save you money.
- Regular maintenance is recommended.

Furnaces

- Gas furnaces operate using a gas burner that heats air and distributes it throughout the home.
- Oil furnaces use a burner to heat oil that is then converted into hot air.

Boilers

- Boilers are commonly used for both heating and cooling systems.
- They typically are more efficient than wood stoves.
- Steaming or hot water is distributed throughout the house.

Wood Stoves

- Pellet stoves are available where wood is readily available.
- They are a good option for those who live in an area where there is limited access to natural gas or electricity.

Energy-Saving Tips

- Keep your home at a comfortable temperature.
- Use programmable thermostats to save energy.
- Seal air leaks and add insulation.

Tips for Cutting Your Heating Bills

- Check air ducts and heating pipes for leaks.
- Clean your air filters regularly.
- Use a programmable thermostat.
- Consider renewable energy sources.

Energy Efficiency

- AFUE (Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency)
- SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio)
- HSPF (Heating Season Performance Factor)
- COP (Coefficient of Performance)

Types of Heat Sources and Heating Systems

- Natural gas, oil, electricity, solar, geothermal, wood, and biomass.
- Types include furnaces, boilers, heat pumps, radiant heating, and baseboards.

MEASURING A HEATING SYSTEM'S EFFICIENCY

- Efficiency is measured in terms of AFUE, SEER, and HSPF.
- A higher efficiency rating means lower energy costs.

Types of Space Heaters

- Baseboards, convector, radiant, electric, and wood.

SELECTING A HEATING SYSTEM

- Consider the type of fuel, efficiency, and cost.
- Consult with a heating professional.

HEATING SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

- Clean filters regularly.
- Have professional maintenance annually.
- Check for leaks and damage.

FUELS

- Natural gas
- Oil
- Electricity

Costs

- Heating oil: $1,700
- Natural gas: $700
- Electricity: $1,100

LIFE EXPECTANCY

- Furnace: 10-15 years
- Boiler: 15-30 years

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Proper insulation
- Sealing air leaks
- Using energy-efficient appliances

TIPS FOR CUTTING YOUR HEATING BILLS

- Lower the thermostat by 10 degrees when you're away or asleep.
- Replace 20 old appliances with ENERGY STAR models.
- Use a programmable thermostat.

ENERGY-CONSUMED DURING HEATING SEASON

- Up to 45% of your home's heat is lost through walls and attic.
- Consider air sealing and adding insulation.

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- Save money on energy bills.
- Increase the value of your home.

RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

- Solar, geothermal, biomass.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- What is the most efficient heating source?
- How do I know if my heating system is energy-efficient?
- What are the benefits of using renewable energy sources for heating?