

Home Heating

Warm Homes Begin with Warmer Air

Today's homebuyers are more demanding than ever when it comes to the comfort and efficiency provided by their homes. Propane-fueled heating systems enable builders to offer the ultimate in heating comfort and energy efficiency, while remaining environmentally responsible.

Forced-air central furnaces fueled by propane, on average, provide warmer air than electric heat pumps—up to 25 degrees warmer. That means no annoying cold spots or uncomfortable drafts.

The benefits of propane to homeowners are obvious, but many propane home heating systems have features that make them the smart choice for builders, too. Propane furnaces, even ultra-high efficiency models, have low-profile designs, so they can fit into tight spaces with height restrictions or narrow side clearances—even a closet.

Most of today's propane furnaces are equipped with electronic ignitions that activate the burners only when gas is needed. This enhances safety, and efficiency, by eliminating the need for standing pilot lights.

In addition to conserving energy with electronic ignition, propane gas furnaces are available with vent dampers. These "flapper" devices, installed in the flue, close when the heat demand has been met, trapping residual heat for circulation in the home.

One exciting technology in propane heating systems is a combo-heater that uses water heaters to provide space heating. Basically, the water heater operates conventionally until heat is needed. Hot water then circulates through a water-to-air heat exchanger coil in the air handler of the furnace, and warm air is distributed throughout the house by ducts.

These units can achieve up to 90 percent efficiencies for both water and central heating. Over one million of these systems have been installed in the United States since 1974.

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How flexible are the installation requirements?

Many models can be installed and vented in a variety of ways, and some are even certified for zero clearance on side and back, to sit flush against walls.

What is the average lifetime of a propane furnace?

Propane furnaces have operating lives of 15–20 years, 5–10 years longer than electric heat pumps.¹ And propane is reliable, ensuring that your home and your family stay warm and comfortable.

Are combo-heating systems a good option?

Combo-heaters are very well suited for both new and existing construction projects: Units are direct-vented and require no chimney. They have completely sealed combustion chambers. This is not only a safety feature, but also allows them to be installed virtually anywhere in the home.

¹ EREC Reference Brief, U.S. Dept. of Energy

For more information about home heating, please visit:
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