



There are a number of solutions that can be implemented in order to reduce home heating costs. Three main recommendations include:

- Updating your current appliance to a more efficient one
- Change your fuel source to a cheaper one
- Examine zone heating options

1. Update your Appliance

Modern (newer) appliances are more efficient than older ones. If your heating appliance is over 5 years old, you may want to consider updating it to something more modern.

Another popular choice is 'adding' to your appliance. For example, there are high efficiency wood furnaces available on the market today that can be used in conjunction with your existing furnace (regardless of fuel). For information on these, please visit our website under products / furnaces.

2. Changing Fuels

Different fuels cost different amounts. The following list ranks fuels from cheapest to most expensive (although this can fluctuate):

- Wood / Corn
- Pellet
- Natural Gas
- Oil
- Propane
- Electricity

Generally, the more work involved the less expensive it is to heat your home. For example, someone who has access to free wood and cuts it will essentially heat their home for free. Someone who heats with pellets will consume around 3 tons of pellets per year (approximately \$850-900).

The costs of each appliance are very similar. The cost to have an efficient gas / propane / pellet or wood stove installed is often within a few hundred dollars of one another. If you are interested in saving money, please ask us about the pros and cons of each fuel source to see which one works best for you.

3. Zone Heating

A very popular trend nowadays is the concept of zone heating. Zone heating recommends that you heat (or cool) the areas of your home that you use frequently, allowing you to turn down your primary heating system (i.e. your furnace) and not spend money on heating areas of your home that you do not use. For example, if your home is 1,000 square feet per floor (for a total of 3,000 square feet if you count the basement), your primary living space is probably around 1,000 (kitchen, bedroom and family room). Technically, you could turn down your furnace and add a small fireplace in the kitchen / family room area (people often prefer bedrooms cooler for sleeping). Of course each home is unique but many people feel that heating the full home is not the most economical thing to do in this age of rising costs.



Zone Heater Types

- Stove: A stove is a free-standing unit.
- Insert: An insert is a 'fireplace' that is installed inside a masonry cavity in order to make it efficient.
- Fireplace: A fireplace (also called a zero-clearance or factory built fireplace) is an insulated box that can be installed anywhere (but it does require venting to the outside).
- Mini-Furnace: These are often called 'wall furnaces' and are small heaters that are not as aesthetically pleasing to look at as stoves or fireplaces.

What does BTU mean?

The term BTU is an abbreviation for 'British Thermal Unit.' British Thermal Unit represents the amount of energy required to raise one pound of water, one degree Fahrenheit. A 100-watt light bulb would produce 341 BTU's of heat energy.
