



How to Heat a Home

Efficiently With Propane



Though gas is the most common fuel source used to heat homes in the United States, propane is by far the most energy and cost-efficient option. Propane can generate heat quicker than other types of fuel in the market, and it can be purchased at lower prices during the summer months.

In this detailed explanation, learn how to heat your home properly using a propane furnace and save money on fuel such as by purchasing the fuel in bulk during these months when demand is low to keep reducing the cost of heat even throughout the winter season.

Heating Your Home Properly with Propane

- The heat generated by propane is much more powerful than heat generated by gas, so it does not need to be kept running consistently to heat a home. Instead, it can be turned on for a few hours at a time and the residual heat keeps the house warm before the heat needs to be turned on again. This saves on energy and uses up less fuel. Additionally, sensors can be installed to turn the furnace off automatically once the home reaches the ideal temperature.



- Electronic igniters are more cost and energy-efficient than traditional pilot lights since they do not constantly consume fuel. It is best to replace any pilot lights in your home with electronic ignition to further reduce cost.
- To keep stock of your monthly propane usage, make sure to take into account all appliances that use propane in the home, including ovens, stoves, generators, dryers, and washing machines.
- Unlike traditional gas and electric heating systems that tap into local networks. Propane



tanks need to be manually refueled by scheduling deliveries with local suppliers, so it requires more upkeep than other methods.

- These tanks can either be rented from the supplier or purchased by the homeowner. Maintenance and repair of rented tanks are handled by the supplier, while purchased tanks must be maintained by the owner, so renting may sometimes be the best option.
- If the home you are looking to purchase uses propane, make sure to ask the previous homeowner for additional details about the propane tank, including its age, condition, and maintenance. If these details cannot be obtained from the previous owner, contact a professional to assess the state of the tank, along with any repairs or maintenance that it possibly needs or if it would need to be replaced.
- Finding quality fuel and propane services in your area is also a must. Make sure that your supplier complies with local laws and safety regulations by checking for policies online and asking other residents.



Bringing the Heat on the Road

- Propane fuel is also one of the most efficient ways to heat mobile homes. Heat needs to be distributed through the mobile home through ducts, similar to regular



homes. If your mobile home lacks the proper ductwork, you will need to have it installed before you can use propane.

- Given the small amount of space in a mobile home, it's recommended that you choose a tank at the smaller end of the spectrum—something that could fit inside a closet. Compared to a propane furnace, a small tank is much more modest when it comes to the price.
- While some mobile homes come equipped with a

propane furnace, it's still important to double-check on all the ductwork, cord, and hoses. After you complete the furnace inspection, make sure to test the unit to make sure everything is working properly. Run the furnace for around an hour and let the heat warm through your home.

- If you ever find yourself in a chilly climate, you will need to keep your mobile home “coldproof” by eliminating drafts around your windows and doorway. To check if drafts are present, flick a lighter or hold a candle near the edges of the window and door to locate any possible wind drafts. You could also reinforce your mobile home by adding weatherstripping to your doors to block the flow of air inside.
- Regularly inspect your gutters for puddles or ice, as external factors can reduce heat within your mobile home. Make it a habit to check the roof to ensure the free flow of water from your roof and that there are no spots for water to stand.

Tips to Save on Propane Fuel

1. Prices for propane tanks vary between different suppliers, but the best way to cop the lowest rates is to do an online comparison of suppliers in your area. Many propane suppliers often sell discounted fuel as well, so make sure to check back on their stores periodically.
2. If you want to save on propane fuel, one of the wise things to do is to join a local fuel co-op to save money through negotiation with local fuel suppliers. A regular membership could cost around \$25 to \$30, but you get your money back eventually through saving you could reap as part of the co-op.
3. Some propane suppliers add some pesky additional fees onto their service charges. Always request a breakdown of the different charges and avoid ordering fuel on weekends, holidays, and during off-hours, as delivery companies charge extra during said days.
4. Having a thermostat around can effectively moderate your temperature, as well as save you money from improper use of heat. You can program your thermostat to automatically activate during certain hours and even set it up through a smartphone app so you can have total control of the flow of heat inside your home.

