

insightful answers culled from various reliable sources – including the gas utilities themselves – that will dispel any misconceptions you may have about Oilheat.

**QUESTIONS?**

## What You Can Do Now

- **As an Oilheat consumer, YOU ARE IN CONTROL.** In the face of unpredictable energy prices, your wisest strategy is to conserve energy by reducing consumption.
- **Upgrade Your Heating System:** If you are relying on an outdated furnace or boiler, you could save as much as \$1.80\* for every gallon of Oilheat you buy when next winter rolls around. That's because a modern Oilheat system can cut fuel usage by as much as 45%.
- **Consider Your Burner:** If you're not looking to make a full system upgrade, you can still save plenty of money with some smaller changes, such as installing a new flame retention burner. If you're using an old burner now, upgrading could save you as much as \$1.00\* for every gallon of fuel you buy.



\*assumes a \$4.00 per gallon cost

### Conservation

- **Install a Programmable Thermostat:** This modern control allows you to put your heating system on a schedule so that it warms the house when you and your family are up and about and lowers the temperature when you're asleep or the house is empty. The U.S. Department of Energy says that reducing a home's temperature by 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours a day can reduce fuel consumption by as much as 10% a year.

### RESOURCES

For more information pertaining to what you've just read, visit [www.energyanswerstoday.com](http://www.energyanswerstoday.com). You will also find the following Web sites helpful:

**OilheatAmerica:** [www.oilheatamerica.com](http://www.oilheatamerica.com)

**ENERGY STAR®:** [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

**Consumer Energy Council of America:** [www.cec.org](http://www.cec.org)

**U.S. Energy Information Agency:** [www.eia.doe.gov](http://www.eia.doe.gov)



[www.EnergyAnswersToday.com](http://www.EnergyAnswersToday.com)

Brochure by PRIMEDIA 1-800-796-3342 [www.primedia-ny.com](http://www.primedia-ny.com)

energy answers today



Your guide to economical & efficient home heating

[www.EnergyAnswersToday.com](http://www.EnergyAnswersToday.com)

With the recent volatility in energy prices, you probably have questions about whether or not you've made the right energy choice. In this brochure, we will provide

# Price

- Across the U.S., for the majority of the past 20 years, Oilheat has cost less than utility gas. (During that time, Oilheat has consistently cost less than propane or electricity.)

Source: Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy

## Conversions

- Oilheat upgrades save you more than utility gas conversions. In a recent study, the Consumer Energy Council of America concluded that if you have heating equipment that is more than 15 years old, with an efficiency rating of 60% or lower, purchasing new high-efficiency Oilheat equipment can reduce fuel consumption considerably and result in lower heating bills.
- Every home, even those with newer, high-efficiency Oilheat systems, can benefit from easy and inexpensive improvements such as installing a programmable thermostat or additional insulation.

- Converting to utility gas – involving tank abandonment or removal, plumbing, electrical work, chimney work and ducting – costs in the \$3,500 range, and can run as high as \$9,000! However, by upgrading to a new technologically advanced Oilheat system, you could spend only half that amount and cut your fuel bills by up to 40%!

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



## Bills

- With Oilheat rates, what you see is what you get. Oilheat is measured in easy-to-understand gallons while utility gas is measured in the not-so-user-friendly “therms.”
- Utility gas bills contain a variety of adjustments and taxes. That’s why most gas utilities have a “how to read your bill” page on their Web sites.



## Safety

### Health Hazards

- Properly adjusted residential oil burners produce very low carbon monoxide emissions. Should an Oilheat system malfunction, it produces odors and visible warning signs. When a utility gas system malfunctions, on the other hand, it produces deadly carbon monoxide. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, utility gas systems are the leading cause of carbon monoxide deaths in the United States.
- The chemical methyl mercaptan, which is added to create the “gas smell” that alerts for leaks, has never been tested for its toxicity to humans.

### Environmental Hazards

- Utility gas, made up mostly of methane, can leak into the atmosphere during production, processing and transport, and can contribute to global warming. Methane, as a greenhouse gas, traps 20 times more heat in the atmosphere than the carbon dioxide released by Oilheat equipment.

- Modern Oilheat systems produce near-zero levels of emissions, and the recent introduction of Bioheat® and ultra-low-sulfur Oilheat has lowered emissions even further.
- The chance of an oil leak from a tank is so low that residential storage tanks are not regulated by the federal government.

## Pipeline Incidents

- Since 1986, there have been over 3,000 gas pipeline incidents, resulting in over 350 fatalities and nearly \$884 million in property damage.
- Oilheat is not explosive. If you drop a lit match into a tank of heating oil, it will go out as if it were dropped into water. If you drop a lit match into a pipe filled with utility gas, it will, without a doubt, explode.

Source: Office of Pipeline Safety, 11/86-12/31/07

ANSWERS!

## Supply

- Unlike Oilheat, of which there is a plentiful supply, the U.S. has no emergency utility gas stockpile.
- Utility gas lines must be shut down during construction or highway projects, water main breaks or in the event of any possible pipeline damage. Having an oil storage tank on your property, however, provides you with ample fuel for all your daily needs, without any concerns about shutdowns to “the grid.”

- Automatic delivery programs ensure homeowners of a constant and reliable supply of Oilheat.
- With Oilheat, you receive personalized “I’ll be right over” service from a local distributor who knows you and your heating system.



- The utility gas company, in contrast, is often a large, bureaucratic entity. For instance, one major gas supplier to more than 3.4 million homes in America is actually an international, European based conglomerate.
- According to a survey by the Turner Marketing Research Co., 70% of Oilheat users felt that the gas utility would not give the same personalized service as their Oilheat dealer.
- Unlike the gas utility, which uses outside contractors (which the customer must find), your Oilheat dealer usually handles sales, service, installation and repairs of heating equipment.

## The Future

One of the top “selling points” of Oilheat is that it is an energy source that is on the cutting edge of new technologies. Some of the new developments in Oilheat technology include two-stage furnaces, super-efficient combined condensing boiler/hot water heaters, outdoor heating/cooling systems, advanced microprocessor-based controls, and further advances into biofuels and other alternative fuels.

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