



Heating Oil Frequently Asked Questions

Is heating oil a good value?

Yes. Heating oil, like other forms of energy, is a commodity traded on the open market, so you can expect occasional blips — both up and down — in the price. But overall, the price of heating oil has remained exceptionally low. In fact, a few years ago, heating oil prices dropped to a 25-year low.

Competition among local oilheat companies also plays a big role in giving homeowners more choices and better value.

Should I be concerned about heating oil supplies?

No. It's been more than 30 years since there was a significant problem with energy supplies. Today, improvements in drilling technology have opened up reserves in more countries than ever before.

What is the easiest way to get a delivery?

The easiest way to get heating oil is through automatic delivery. Reel-Strong counts "degree-days" to keep track of how cold the weather has been and calculates an individual burn rate for each customer. This lets us know just when a customer will need a delivery, long before most people would know it themselves.

What should I do about an old system?

An old oilheat system is no different than any other outdated heating system, regardless of the fuel used. Old systems can generate high fuel bills, but they can easily be replaced with equipment that incorporates new oilheat technology.

How do I know if my system should be replaced?

Oil heat systems typically last 30 years and longer. However, the older the system, the greater the gain in efficiency and cleanliness through upgrading. If your oilheat system is less than 20 years old, you are already benefiting from some of the technological advances of Clearburn Science.

Are there low cost ways to improve an oil heat system's efficiency?

Yes. A professional tune-up once a year can increase efficiency by as much as 10%. Homeowners can also improve efficiency — by as much as 25% - of if they replace an old burner with a modern, flame-retention burner. Purchasing a new burner is a modest investment with a rapid payback.

Is oil heat an efficient way to heat a home?

Yes. Oilheat has always provided efficient and affordable warmth and it's gotten even better in recent years. Many oil-fired systems now display the prestigious Energy Star label, which signifies that they are technologically advanced and clean-burning. Some oilheat systems have efficiency ratings that exceed 90%.

What steps can you follow if you have trouble getting heat?

1. See if the oil burner switch is on. 2. Check your thermostat. Make sure that it's set above room

temperature. 3. Check fuses and/or circuit breakers. 4. Check your oil tank to see if you have fuel. 5. Press the reset button on the burner relay once only 6. If, after these steps, your heating system still hasn't come on, **Call Reel-Strong.**

Is oil heat clean?

Just like older cars, older heating systems produced undesirable levels of combustion emissions. But today's oil heat technology has been tested by the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory, and it has been found to be virtually soot-free! In fact, the technology of Clearburn Science has increased the overall cleanliness of today's oilheat systems to 99.9%. That's one reason oil heat emissions aren't even regulated by the Federal Clean Air Act. And for old systems still in use, excess soot and dirt can be substantially reduced with regular, professional tune-ups