



## Choose a heating or domestic hot-water system

### Reduce energy use and save money

Space and water heating account for nearly 2/3 of your annual energy use.<sup>1</sup> Choosing the right system can help reduce your energy use and save money. Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas offer rebates for qualifying energy-efficient systems, which can help reduce costs even more.

### What are the different types of systems?

#### Forced-air furnaces

Furnaces heat air and distribute that air through the house using ducts.

#### Hot-water boilers and steam boilers

Boilers heat water and provide either hot water or steam for heating. Steam is distributed through pipes to steam radiators, and hot water can heat air through a coil or be distributed through baseboard radiators or radiant floor systems.

#### Two-in-one boiler and integrated domestic hot-water units

Combination, or combi, boilers provide high-efficiency space heating and domestic hot water in a compact footprint that is easy to install and maintain.

#### Tankless water heaters

Tankless water heaters, also known as demand-type or instantaneous water heaters, provide hot water only as it is needed. They do not produce the standby energy losses associated with storage water heaters.

#### Indirect water heaters

An indirect water heater uses the main furnace or boiler to heat a fluid that is circulated through a heat exchanger in the storage tank. The energy stored by the water tank allows the furnace to turn on and off less often.



## Improve your home's comfort

### How is the efficiency of a system measured?

A central furnace or boiler's efficiency is measured by annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE). AFUE is a measure of how efficient the appliance is in converting the energy in its fuel to heat over the course of a typical year. Modern heating systems can achieve efficiencies as high as 98.5 percent, converting nearly all the fuel to useful heat for your home. A new high-efficiency heating system can often cut your fuel bills and your furnace's pollution output in half.

### How do you know when to upgrade your current HVAC system?

If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, it might be time to get a new unit:

- Is your system 10+ years old?
- Does your system require frequent repairs?
- Has your system experienced a major component failure?
- Does your system seem to run a lot to keep your home comfortable?

### How can a smart thermostat work with my HVAC system to save energy?

Depending on the model, smart thermostats automatically adjust the temperature based on your comfort preferences, your programmed schedule, if you are home or away, and your local weather. These functions work "behind the scenes" to reduce energy waste without affecting the comfort level of your home.

### Why should I work with a participating contractor to upgrade my system?

A participating contractor can evaluate your existing system and provide recommendations for upgrades. Plus, they are familiar with current utility rebates for qualifying equipment and can help you select a more affordable and energy-efficient unit.

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