

## Effective Heating for Your Mobile or Manufactured Home

Propane is a great way to heat your mobile home efficiently and reliably. Winters can be especially challenging for mobile home owners when a good fuel source isn't being used, heating elements are not working, or if insulation is inadequate. Here we'll talk about the benefits of using a propane furnace to heat your mobile home along with some tips on how to stay energy efficient and keep costs down without sacrificing on comfort.

Mobile home furnaces deliver heat through either the burning of natural or propane gas, oil or electric heating methods. An extremely dependable, versatile and convenient fuel source, propane can keep your home warm and comfortable. Propane systems can last twice as long as electric heating systems while dispersing heat more evenly and at a fraction of the cost. Homeowners may also be able to reap additional rebate and other financial incentives when installing a propane heating system. Propane works with traditional forced air heating systems, as well as with more eco-friendly hydronic systems like baseboard and radiant floor heat radiators.

Mobile home furnaces are smaller than those used in standard homes, and are stored in an allocated area, usually one of the home's closets. Consumers can find propane furnaces starting at approximately \$650.

### **A Mobile or Manufactured Home's Energy Efficiency**

**Insulation.** This is key to any home's energy efficiency, whether it be a mobile or standard home. The most evident signs that your mobile home is not well insulated are high fuel bills; persistent fluctuations of the home's inside temperature; uninvited pests; and/or that the home's floors, ceilings or walls feel cold to the touch.

Defend your home against drafts! When it comes to insulation, do not overlook your doors and windows. Over time, their ability to seal tightly may decrease. Regularly check your windows and doors for cracked seals and gaps that could be letting uninvited outdoor elements into your home. Remember, cold drafts mean your heater must work twice as hard to keep your home warm. An easy way to check for drafts and cold air currents is to use a very light object, like a feather or candle to check for air movement. You can also use your sense of touch and hearing -- run the back of your hand around your window and door frames to feel for cold breezes. You might also be able to hear subtle whistling or swooshing sounds of air coming through the cracks. If you're unable to seal things up by a simple tightening of the door or window, consider caulking, foam tape or other weather-stripping mechanism to keep your home draft free. For a quick and temporary fix, roll a towel along the bottom of any doors and windows where drafts are entering from the bottom.

**Skirting.** Skirting is a strip, usually wooden, that covers the lowest part of an interior wall. Its purpose is to cover the joint between the wall surface and the floor, and the uneven edge where flooring meets the wall. Skirting protects walls from kicks, abrasion and furniture; serves as a decorative moulding; and protects the open space underneath the mobile home from cold air entry. A mobile home without skirting is at risk of hot water depletion since the pipes are under the home where air is colder and damper and therefore, more susceptible to freezing. Insulated skirting may be an important home improvement, offering peace of mind in not having to worry about pipes freezing. In general, skirting installation provides more energy efficiency and protection against harsh temperatures.

**Furnace Maintenance.** Regular furnace cleaning is integral to ensuring your system is functioning properly and helping to reduce your energy bills, especially important for older furnaces. All warm air systems have filters to screen out dust and other impurities. The good news is that propane furnaces require very little maintenance. A clean-burning alternative to oil, there is no required boiler maintenance or dirty soot to clean up. To get the most



out of your propane furnace, if you have a standard throwaway filter, replace it around once a month throughout the year. Make sure your furnace is off before changing the filter. Once changed, make sure the furnace door/panel is properly closed. Higher efficiency air filters require less maintenance and can be replaced and cleaned as needed. Make sure to vacuum up any debris, easily done using your vacuum's brush attachments.

**Propane, Your One-Fuel Source.** As for general convenience, flexibility and versatility, with propane there is no need for several fuel sources. Propane can power your other high-efficiency appliances like ranges, clothes dryers, water heaters, fireplaces and more – making propane your one-fuel stop.

Contact us to learn more about all the [BENEFITS](#) of propane for your mobile or manufactured home. Our team of experienced propane professionals look forward to assisting you, and click [HERE](#) for more on fueling your home.

Paraco, we fuel your every day.