

Hints For Homeowners

Geothermal Systems: A Cold Weather Alternative

(NAPSA)—In many parts of the country, last winter's low temperatures broke long-standing records. In fact, it was so cold that, nearly a year later, some people are still paying off their fuel bills.

As a result, a growing number of homeowners are looking for a more economical way to heat their home and many are considering geothermal systems for a number of good reasons.

• Savings And Efficiency

Geothermal systems, which draw on the stored energy in the earth, are much more efficient than propane and offer savings in the range of 70 to 80 percent on a yearly basis. Plus, consumers are not left vulnerable to volatility in the fossil fuel market or delivery prices.

• More Convenience

Unlike other renewable technologies, such as solar or wind, geothermal heat pumps provide constant benefits regardless of outdoor conditions. And there's no waiting for fuel deliveries or running out of fuel at an inconvenient time.

• Equipment That Lasts

Geothermal systems tend to have a longer life span than propane-fueled heating systems. Furnaces that run off of propane have an estimated life span of 15 to 20 years. On the other hand, geothermal heat pumps have been found to have a life span of roughly 25 years, while the underground piping system that accesses the underground energy can last more than 100 years before needing to be replaced.

• Tax Credits Available

While the price and installation costs of a geothermal system



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are higher than those of a propane system, the yearly energy savings experienced with a geothermal system can allow a homeowner to recoup the additional installation costs spent within five to 10 years, on average.

Plus, a 30 percent federal tax credit is available to homeowners who install a geothermal heating and cooling system.

• A Variety Of Uses

Another advantage that geothermal offers over propane fuel is that a single geothermal system can provide a homeowner both heating and cooling.

Some geothermal systems even have an option that provides homes with hot water. With this combination, homeowners can enjoy even more savings. In some cases, that means up to 70 percent savings on their monthly utility bills.

To learn more, visit the website at www.waterfurnace.com/switch.