

For Business



For most commercial buildings, nearly 35% of energy used is for space heating.



Choosing the right-sized equipment is important to optimize your energy consumption!

Avoid Oversized Equipment

According to the Consortium of Energy Efficiency, at least 25% of all rooftop HVAC units are oversized, resulting in increased energy costs and equipment wear. Make sure you choose the right furnace size for your business. Oversizing of furnaces, besides raising purchase cost, will result in weaker energy efficiency due to excessive on-off cycling.



Programmable Thermostat

A programmable thermostat allows you to automatically dial down the temperature while you're away. You can save up to 10% per year by turning back your thermostat 10 degrees for eight hours a day.

Natural Gas Space Heating for Your Business

Installing energy efficient, natural gas heating equipment is a good way to cut down on energy bills. Furthermore, by choosing the comfort of natural gas, you get a warm building all winter long. And it's reassuring knowing you're saving energy and money using the cleanest-burning and most energy efficient heating source. There are many options, so choose the one that's right for your business. Here are some examples:

Forced-Air Furnace

Modern, high-efficiency natural gas furnaces achieve incredible operating efficiencies as high as 92 to 97% AFUE (Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiencies). Therefore, today's energy efficient equipment can prove to be a sound investment by converting nearly all the fuel to useful heat for your building.

A 92% or higher AFUE furnace can be up to 15% more efficient than standard models and 30 to 50% more efficient than models that are 15 to 20 years old. Although an energy efficient product can be more expensive to purchase up front, the cost difference will be paid back over time through lower energy bills.

Condensing Furnace

All models that meet the recommended high-efficiency levels are "condensing" furnaces. This technology takes advantage of normally exhausted heat in the furnace's flue gas. Condensing furnaces require slight modifications in installation; consult your heating professional for more information.

Multi-Stage Firing

Your furnace must have enough capacity to meet your business' heating needs on the coldest day of winter. However, for most of the heating season the typical furnace provides more heating capacity than you need. Unlike a furnace with single stage firing, that is either firing at full output or completely off, a furnace with multi-stage firing can selectively turn some burners off when the full furnace output is not needed, saving you energy and money.

Duct Sealing

Poorly-sealed ducts can generate comfort problems and, in some cases, cause backdrafting of gas-fired equipment (furnaces and water heaters). Ductwork should be inspected and sealed in conjunction with furnace installation.

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Natural Gas Boiler

A boiler is a hot water central heating system that operates on the principle that warm water rises.

Buying a boiler may be one of the biggest purchases you'll make for your business, so it's important to choose wisely. Here are some things to consider when shopping for a boiler:

Consider efficiency. A higher efficiency boiler may cost more to purchase, but it can save as much as 20% to 35% per year on your heating bills, depending on the equipment you buy.

Consult fellow boiler owners. You can learn a lot by asking people who use a boiler in their business.

Get estimates. Compare efficiencies and installation costs of various models.

Operating Tips

Boilers need periodic care to extend operating life, save energy and increase efficiency. Use the following as general guidelines, but follow manufacturer's recommendations whenever possible. Citizens offers incentives to help with these costs; ask a qualified boiler technician for details.

- Have a professional check your boiler annually to make sure it is running safely and efficiently.
- Remove high-pile carpet blocking baseboard radiators at the bottom.
- Insulate distribution pipes (the pipes that carry hot water from the boiler to radiators throughout the building, and back to the boiler) if they pass through unheated areas.
- Keep radiators free of air by bleeding them and adding water when needed, according to manufacturer's instructions.

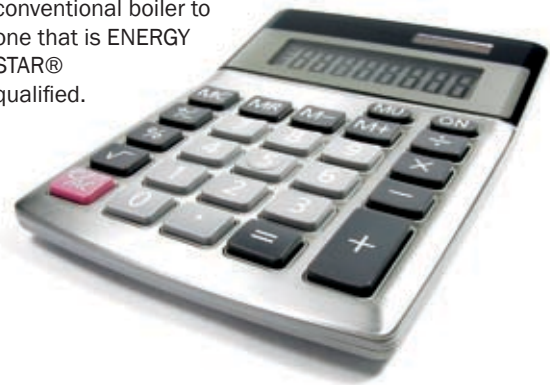


Insulate First

Adding insulation and sealing air leaks will help keep the heat from escaping your home. Make sure your attic is properly insulated to help lower your heating and cooling costs.

Calculate Your Business' Potential Energy Savings

The "Savings Calculator" at www.energystar.gov will help you determine the potential costs savings by upgrading your conventional boiler to one that is ENERGY STAR® qualified.



CitizensEnergySavers.com

Other Resources

Citizens Gas' online Home Energy Audit will help you pinpoint opportunities for energy savings, and its Bill Analyzer, which uses actual billing data, will help you gauge why bill amounts may vary from month to month. Use these tools at CitizensEnergySavers.com.

You may qualify for a tax credit based upon the energy efficiency rating of your new equipment. Learn more at energystar.gov or call 1-888-782-7937.