

New York Energy Watch

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR NEW YORK STATE OILHEAT CONSUMERS

NEW YORK IS SWITCHING TO ULTRA-CLEAN OILHEAT

Cleaner skies and healthier air are coming to New York State, thanks to a **new, eco-friendly fuel that will replace traditional Oilheat** starting in less than two years.

Ultra-Low Sulfur Oilheat will be delivered to homes and businesses throughout the state starting in July 2012. This highly refined fuel contains no more than 15 parts per million of sulfur – **a reduction of more than 99 percent** from traditional Oilheat. Sulfur is a naturally occurring component in oil that generates soot during combustion. With fewer emissions coming from every home and business where Oilheat is used, airborne particulates can be reduced.

When the state Assembly and Senate passed the law this July requiring this ultra-clean fuel, they enjoyed **strong support from New York's Oilheat dealers**. Cleaner fuel benefits every New Yorker, and the companies that deliver your fuel are determined to be **part of the solution** for a better environment.

The push for cleaner fuel in New York is part of a national Oilheat campaign for **eco-friendly home heating**. The industry also supports the increased use of renewable liquid biofuels that blend with Oilheat, and the increased use of hybrid heating that integrates solar energy.

Not only is Ultra-Low Sulfur Oilheat cleaner in the sky, it is cleaner inside your boiler or furnace. With less scale forming on the inside surfaces, your equipment will operate more efficiently and require less maintenance – which can **reduce your overall heating costs**.



New Equipment Makes Oilheat Even Greener

Heating oil is not the only thing that's going green – the latest innovations in high-efficiency Oilheat equipment will take energy conservation to a new level.

Just some advanced energy-saving technologies:

- **Multi-stage furnaces**, which deliver more consistent heat to homes
- **Condensing boilers and furnaces**, which recapture energy from the exhaust gases to make more heat
- **"Smart" microprocessor based controls**, which adjust heating equipment usage based on changing energy needs
- **Vaporizing technologies and high-flow atomization burners**, which modify the way Oilheat mixes with air for combustion
- **Thermo-photo voltaics**, which uses radiation from an Oilheat burner's flames to generate electric power

For more on advanced Oilheat equipment, see page 2.

AN ANNUAL TUNE-UP CAN CUT YOUR COSTS

Annual tuning of your boiler or furnace not only prevents problems down the road, it **increases your system's efficiency** – usually by about 5%. When Oilheat costs between \$2.50 and \$3.00 a gallon, that's like saving \$0.12 to \$0.15 on each and every gallon you use. If you use 800 gallons this winter, that's a potential savings of between \$96 and \$120 – just for doing preventive maintenance.

Skipping the tune-up between heating seasons is never a good idea. Your Oilheat technician checks your oil filter and burner nozzle and replaces them if needed. They also inspect the entire system and make small repairs that can prevent heat outages and expensive repairs during the season. **Skipping those steps is setting yourself up for trouble.**

If you have not scheduled your tune-up yet, we recommend that you call today and get prepared for a safe, comfortable winter with lower heating bills.



NEW EQUIPMENT FINE-TUNES COMFORT AND RAISES EFFICIENCY



Your home is most comfortable and efficient when your heating system delivers even heat in all conditions. That's precisely what happens with today's most advanced Oilheat equipment.

When outdoor temperatures plunge, a modern furnace or boiler can **increase its output level** automatically to ensure consistent warmth. And when the weather is warmer but still cold enough to require heat, a newer system can deliver **gentler warmth**, rather than blasting a room with too much heat in short bursts.

Manufacturers use a combination of technologies to deliver **variable-temperature heating**. Some new systems use an **"outdoor reset control"** to communicate outdoor temperature conditions to the boiler's control system. The colder the outdoor weather is, the hotter the water from the boiler is. With advanced modulation technology, the system can circulate continuously, adjusting the water temperature as the outdoor temperature changes and **keeping room temperatures constant**.

With an older boiler, the boiler water temperature never changes, so the system has to turn on and off continuously, and room temperatures are always in flux.

Room temperature variance is also a problem with **older furnace** systems that heat by delivering hot air. An older furnace has a burner with only one setting and a blower with only one speed. Whether the outdoor temperature is 5° or 45°, hot air is delivered at the same temperature and air speed.

A newer furnace system, though, may employ a burner with multiple output settings and a variable-speed blower. As outdoor temperatures change, the burner can change the flame size and the blower can speed up or slow down. Heated air is delivered evenly, and **room temperatures remain stable**.

Not only is the comfort more satisfying, but **efficiency is usually higher**. To improve your comfort *while* saving energy, call your Oilheat dealer and ask about upgrading to an advanced boiler or furnace with variable-temperature heating.

IS LOW EFFICIENCY DRAINING YOUR WALLET?

Are you planning to **run your old heating system until it quits**, regardless of what you hear about the benefits of high efficiency? If so, why not find out if that strategy is actually working for you?

Most Oilheat dealers will perform a free efficiency test, and you can use the results to **weigh the pros and cons** of a system upgrade. Once you know your system's actual efficiency, you have a basis for an accurate, cost-based comparison.

Consider this scenario: You are using 1,000 gallons a year and your old system is 55% efficient. If you upgrade to an 86% efficient system, you'll reduce your consumption to 639 gallons. If the price of Oilheat was \$2.75 a gallon, **you'd spend \$992.75 less** on oil in a typical winter.

Another consideration is the ever-present **threat of rising energy costs**. High efficiency is your best protection, because the fewer gallons you buy, the less exposed you are to a higher per-gallon price.

No one can decide for you, but with the facts at your disposal, **you can choose** what makes most sense for you.



THE PIPES ARE CALLING!

COLD-WEATHER ADVICE
REGARDING 2 TYPES OF PIPES

Don't Let Your Water Pipes Freeze!

Cold weather can cause water pipes in the home to freeze and burst – something our "snowbird" customers should especially consider! Before winter arrives, insulate exposed pipes in your home's crawl spaces and attic ... seal leaks that allow cold air inside where pipes are located ... open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to uninsulated pipes under sinks ... and if possible, let warm water continuously drip, preferably from a faucet on an outside wall. Also, before you leave, set the thermostat no lower than 55°, and ask a neighbor to check your house daily.

Don't Block Your Oil Fill Pipe!

We thank you for clearing a path to your oil fill pipe! Keeping the area free of leaves in fall, and ice and snow in winter will make it easier for our driver to deliver your oil. Remember, your safety is always our prime concern. If you are a senior citizen or have medical issues, please don't do anything that might put your health at risk.

HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

How may we assist you in lowering your energy bills, increasing your comfort, and raising your heating system's efficiency? Please check all that you are interested in and mail this form back to us.

I am interested in:

- Heating system tune-up
- Heating system efficiency test
- Variable-temperature heating
- High-efficiency heating equipment

Name: _____

Account #: _____

THANK YOU!

FINANCIAL REFORM SHOULD BENEFIT OILHEAT



The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act that was signed into law in July could be an **important win for Oilheat customers**.

The bill reforms the markets where contracts for energy products such as Oilheat are traded. The new regulations are intended to put an end to secretive trading of derivative products, which include some wholesale Oilheat contracts. With all trading activity now occurring on open markets with public record-keeping, **prices will be less subject to manipulation** by hedge funds and speculators.

Price volatility has been a problem for Oilheat customers for the last 10 years, since Congress created the "**Enron Loophole**," which allowed trading in "dark markets" with no reporting requirements. Many experts believe that secretive trading was the **principal cause of the large price swings** that customers have endured in recent years.

Prices will still be subject to market forces such as high demand and supply disruptions, but there is hope that they will be **more predictable**.

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