

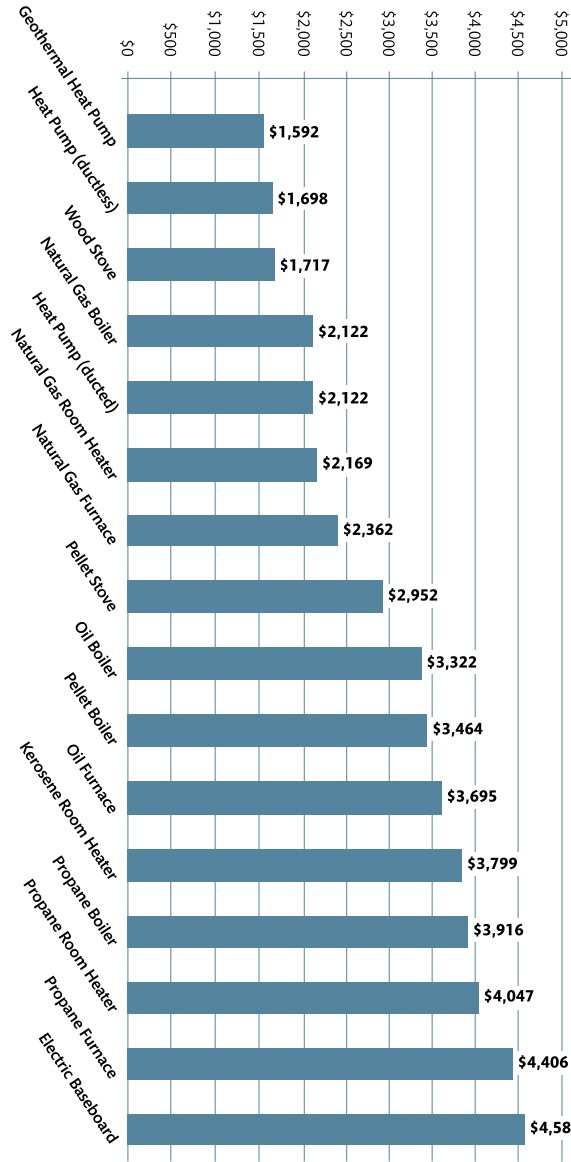
# CHOOSING A HOME HEATING SYSTEM

Homeowners have many options for home heating systems and the benefits of making the right choices can last for decades. Choices include fuel type, technology, efficiency and distribution system. Other considerations include aesthetics, maintenance, and non-heating functions. This brochure is intended to give homeowners information on the costs and features of a variety of popular whole-house heating systems. Having a heating professional come to your home will give you more precise information, tailored to your home.

## LEARN MORE

Visit [efficiencymaine.com](http://efficiencymaine.com) to try our Cost Of Home Heating Calculator, find Residential Registered Vendors, and learn more about rebates and financing options.

Chart provides a comparison of annual heating costs for the whole house using common system types and fuels. Chart uses recent pricing, typical efficiency values, and a home heating load equivalent to 820 gallons of oil. Equipment, installation and maintenance costs not included. Comparison chart updated 3/14/2024. See inside or visit [efficiencymaine.com](http://efficiencymaine.com) for more details.



Annual Heating Costs



Efficiency Maine

# Quick Guide To Home Heating

# WHOLE HOUSE HEATING SYSTEM COMPARISONS

There are many considerations when choosing a new heating system. The following table captures some of the primary ones.

	Natural Gas Boiler/Furnace*	Ductless Heat Pump (whole home)	Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace*	Ducted Air Source Heat Pump	Geothermal Heat Pump	Propane Boiler/Furnace*	Oil Boiler/Furnace*	Electric Baseboard
<b>Equipment and installation cost</b>	\$4,000 – \$11,000	\$5,000 – \$30,000	\$17,000 – \$30,000	\$17,000 – \$22,500	\$30,000 – \$70,000	\$4,000 – \$11,000	\$4,000 – \$11,000	\$1,800 – \$2,200
<b>Energy cost per year</b>	\$2,100 – \$2,200	\$1,600 – \$2,200	\$2,000 – \$2,900	\$2,100 – \$2,500	\$1,500 – \$2,100	\$4,000 – \$4,200	\$3,300 – \$3,500	\$4,600 – \$4,600
<b>Average 15-year installation, equipment, and energy cost</b>	\$39,750	\$46,000	\$60,250	\$54,250	\$77,000	\$69,000	\$58,500	\$71,000
<b>Monthly maintenance</b>	furnace filter change	filter rinse	ash removal	furnace filter change/rinse	furnace filter change/rinse	furnace filter change	furnace filter change	none
<b>Annual maintenance</b>	annual cleaning	annual cleaning	annual cleaning	annual cleaning	annual cleaning	annual cleaning	annual cleaning	none
<b>Visible components (aesthetics)</b>	baseboard, vents or nothing (radiant floor)	wall/floor units or vents plus outdoor unit	baseboard, vents or nothing (radiant floor)	vents and outdoor unit	vents or nothing (radiant floor)	baseboard, vents or nothing (radiant floor)	baseboard, vents or nothing (radiant floor)	baseboard or nothing (radiant floor)
<b>Air conditioning (AC)</b>	no	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	no
<b>Dehumidification</b>	no	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	no
<b>Air filtering</b>	furnace only	yes	furnace only	yes	yes	furnace only	furnace only	no
<b>In-home combustion</b>	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no
<b>Fuel ordering or storage</b>	no	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no
<b>Fan only cooling</b>	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no
<b>Average 15-year CO2 emissions (tons)</b>	100	54	223/0 (Gross/Net)**	66	52	119	145	132

\* Does not include costs for fuel tank, chimney or flue. Low end of the cost range does not include cost of radiators or ductwork.

\*\* There are circumstances in which biomass is grown, harvested, and combusted in a carbon-neutral fashion, but carbon neutrality may not be an appropriate assumption (Source: EPA Center for Corporate Climate Leadership, January, 2016).

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