

Heat Pump Myths & Facts

HEAT PUMP BENEFITS

1. Save money
2. Increase year-round comfort
 - Heat
 - Air conditioning
 - Dehumidification
 - Air filtration
 - Indoor air circulation
3. Run on Maine's increasingly renewable electricity*
4. No combustion fumes
5. No fuel tank or fuel leaks
6. No need to monitor fuel level
7. No heavy, inefficient window air conditioners

* According to the Energy Information Administration [64% of Maine's 2022 in-state net generation was renewable.](#)

VISIT EFFICIENCYMAINE.COM TO:

- Learn more about heat pumps
- Find an installer
- Use our savings calculator
- Explore financing
- Get heat pump user tips
- Read heat pump FAQs
- Research installation considerations
- Download rebate claim forms
- Read and watch homeowner case studies



Mainers have installed more than 100,000 heat pumps in their homes and businesses.

They are the most popular heating system across all of Efficiency Maine's rebates because they offer **highly efficient heating, air conditioning, and dehumidification.**



efficiencymaine.com
866-376-2463

10/31/2024



MYTHS & FACTS

1 MYTH: Heat pumps need backup in the cold.
FACT: As long as heat pumps are properly sized, there is no need for backup. Some heat pumps work at temperatures as low as negative 22 degrees Fahrenheit regardless of windchill. It is increasingly common for new houses to be heated and cooled exclusively with heat pumps. Older homes are also converting exclusively to heat pumps.

2 MYTH: Heat pumps aren't efficient in the cold.
FACT: Though they lose efficiency as the outdoor temperature drops, even at temperatures below zero degrees Fahrenheit, rebate-eligible heat pumps can be more than twice as efficient as the most efficient boiler or furnace.

3 MYTH: Heat pumps only work in superinsulated homes.
FACT: Properly sized heat pumps can be used to heat virtually any home or business.

4 MYTH: Turning down heat pumps at night saves energy.
FACT: While this is true for furnaces and boilers, it is not true for heat pumps. Heat pumps save the most energy when allowed to maintain a constant temperature. That's why we recommend that people, "set it and forget it."

5 MYTH: To maximize overall efficiency, use your heat pumps in mild weather when they are most efficient, and use your furnace or boiler in the dead of winter when it is most efficient.

FACT: While there are temperatures at which an oil boiler is cheaper to run than a heat pump, there are very few hours per year when this is true. Modeling shows the potential savings of switching to a furnace or boiler during those hours is minimal, and failure to switch back at precisely the right temperature could actually increase costs.

6 MYTH: When switching exclusively to heat pumps, you need to leave your boiler on to prevent it from leaking.

FACT: Rather than leaving your boiler on, you can install new gaskets or drain it if it is not going to be used.

7 MYTH: When switching exclusively to heat pumps, you need to leave your boiler on to prevent pipes from freezing.

FACT: Rather than leaving your boiler on, you can minimize this risk with insulation, heat tape on at-risk pipes, or space heaters set to keep the temperature just above freezing.

8 MYTH: Home insurance isn't available for homes heated exclusively with heat pumps.

FACT: While some insurance companies don't yet offer insurance for homes heated exclusively with heat pumps, we have a list of insurance companies that do offer insurance for heat pump-heated homes on our website.

TO LEARN MORE

Visit efficiencymaine.com
or call 866-376-2463

