

Natural Gas Costs Less, Says DOE

Natural Gas is America's Best Home Value When Compared to Other Energy Sources

ANNUAL SPACE HEATING COST SUMMARY		
Heating Equipment Type (Based on 5000 Heating Degree Days)	2011	2012
80% AFUE Gas Furnace	\$866	\$657
95% AFUE Gas Furnace	\$687	\$522
80% AFUE Propane Furnace	\$2,072	\$1,682
95% AFUE Propane Furnace	\$1,696	\$1,376
80% AFUE Oil Furnace	\$1,827	\$1,723
85% AFUE Oil Furnace	\$1,746	\$1,654
8.0 HSPF Electric Heat Pump	\$1,124	\$906
Electric Resistance Furnace	\$2,095	\$1,725

SPACE HEATING ANALYSIS SUMMARY: The space heating analysis is based on a 2,072 square foot house located in St. Louis and represents a 5,000 Heating Degree Day location. The house meets the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code and the space heating equipment is selected from the ARI online directory. The 95% AFUE (Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency) natural gas furnace provides the lowest operating cost space heating option.

Water Heater Type	2012
40 Gallon Natural Gas (FHR = 74 gallons)	\$252
50 Gallon Electric (FHR = 67 gallons)	\$550

WATER HEATER ANALYSIS SUMMARY: The water heater analysis is based on providing the equivalent First Hour Rating (FHR) based on national average energy usage and the 2012 energy costs as defined by DOE. A natural gas fired 40-gallon and an electric 50-gallon, both conventional storage type, are chosen on this basis. The natural gas water heater would provide the lowest operating cost heating option.

ANNUAL SPACE HEATING AND WATER HEATER INSTALLATION

Space heating/Water Heating Type	2011	2012
Natural Gas: 96% AFUE Furnace & Water Heater	\$955	\$774
Natural Gas: 80% AFUE Furnace & Water Heater	\$1,134	\$909
Electric: Heat Pump & Water Heater	\$1,665	\$1,456

COMBINATION SPACE HEATING AND WATER HEATER INSTALLATION: Based on the annual cost analysis for space heating and water heating, the combination of a natural gas 96% AFUE furnace and natural gas water heater provides the lowest operating cost space/water heating package.

These estimates by the American Gas Association are based on Department of Energy (DOE) forecast for projected costs of natural gas and electricity.

