The problem with electric heat pumps

An electric heat pump works by capturing heat from the outside air and transferring it to your home. But when it’s really cold out there, there isn’t enough heat energy for your heat pump to keep you comfortable. Older heat pumps in Minnesota often supply heated air at 95°, which is colder than your body temperature.

To compensate, people end up using all sorts of electric space heaters, which are the most expensive way to generate heat. They may also rely on backup electric strips, which are also expensive and often emit a burnt odor; this is caused by dust and other residue that has built up around the strips.

Propane furnaces—the better option

In contrast, propane furnaces produce much higher indoor air temperatures, guaranteeing that you will keep your home toasty warm even during the most frigid Minnesota winter. Highly efficient propane furnaces produce enough thermal energy to heat your home without the need for a backup system.

Propane— the single-fuel solution

Versatile propane can not only heat your home, it can power everything from water heaters, generators, and stoves and cooktops to fireplaces, clothes dryers, outdoor grills, space heaters and more.

Propane offers greater value per dollar than ever before. It’s even possible to go off the electric grid entirely, thanks to a system that uses micro-combined heat and power (micro-CHP) technology. This allows a furnace to be combined with a generator to heat a home or business while making electricity too.

Micro-CHP technology has been used for decades in the commercial and industrial sectors. It has also proven to be a viable option in residences where there is high heat demand, such as multi-family buildings and large luxury estates.

Service tip: check your air filter

A dirty air filter in your propane furnace will restrict airflow and lower system efficiency. It can even cause your furnace to overheat and shut down! Depending on the kind of filter your system has, you should replace it or wash it about once a month. Make sure the power to the furnace is off before removing the filter.

Contact your propane company to learn how to stay warmer this winter. And be sure to visit DiscoverPropaneMN.com to learn how you can save money by taking advantage of current rebate opportunities.
Avoid run-out worries

When you request scheduled propane delivery service from your fuel supplier, you can stop checking your gas gauge and end the worry about running out of propane.

Your propane company will calculate your needs using a system based on the weather and your household’s propane usage. It allows your supplier to accurately predict when you will need fuel and provide convenient and reliable scheduled propane deliveries.

Instead of having to call every time you need more propane, you don’t have to do a thing. Your propane company will simply come to your home and fill your tank based on the schedule it has built for you.

There is no need to schedule and wait for propane deliveries, and you’ll avoid the expense and hassle of having your piping system checked for leaks and your burners relit, both of which need to be done whenever there is a run-out.

Keep your winter deliveries on track

Whether you get scheduled deliveries or prefer to call for your fuel, there are a few things you can do to help ensure that you receive your propane without any delays.

❄ Keep your fuel tank unobstructed. Remove leaves, branches and other debris from the area so drivers can access it easily.

❄ After a snowfall, please clear a 12- to 24-inch-wide path to your tank and clear off the top of the tank.

❄ Remove any icicles that are hanging from your roof over your outside tank so they do not fall and break equipment.

❄ Make sure your driveway gets plowed after a storm. Delivery trucks need a 10- to 15-foot-wide path to maneuver. Safety regulations prohibit your propane company from delivering on slippery or unsafe surfaces.

❄ For safety’s sake, schedule a gas systems safety inspection on your appliances once a year.

WIN a FREE tank fill-up

Here’s your chance to win big! Just read the articles in this newsletter, correctly answer the three questions below, and we’ll enter you in a drawing to win a FREE tank fill-up (up to 400 gallons of propane)!

Complete the form below and mail it back to us at the address shown.

1. A dirty air filter in your furnace restricts ___________ and lowers efficiency.

2. Older heat pumps in Minnesota often supply heated air at ___________.

3. Micro-CHP technology combines a furnace with a generator to heat the home and make ___________.

Name __________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________________ State MN Zip __________
Phone __________________________ Email __________________________
Your propane dealer __________________________

No purchase necessary. A purchase will not improve your chances of winning. Employees of MPA, its affiliates, agencies or vendors may not enter. Winner will be notified by email. Drawing will take place December 29, 2017.

Please send your entries to: MPA Contest Entries, PO Box 220, Princeton, MN 55371

Brought to you by your propane company and the Minnesota Propane Association