

How to Buy a Boiler

Buying a boiler system is probably one of the more complicated purchases one could make for their home. A new boiler system will at the same time, money, make your house safer and improve your home comfort.

You WILL Save Money with a New Boiler

Yes. We have upgraded older boilers and witnessed savings of 40% or more! The efficiency of older boilers ranges from 60-80%. In addition to that, older boilers are usually over-sized! Going to 95% and right-sizing a boiler will save you money.

New boilers have very smart burners. We call it a “modulating burner”, and it can have a very small flame or a large flame to match the heat required to warm the house. This technology also leads to savings.

You WILL be Safer with a New Boiler

By law, older boilers need to be inspected annually. The reason is that there is a risk that these boilers can produce Carbon Monoxide leading to poisoning.

While older boilers use a “negative draft” venting system, new boilers use a “positive” vent system where the exhaust is pushed out from the boiler using a fan. The new safer system uses two vent pipes: one brings combustion air directly into the unit, the other is the exhaust.

You WILL be More Comfortable with a New Boiler

New boilers provide a consistent heat. Using an outdoor temperature sensor, the burner size changes to match the heat required in the home eliminating the temperature swings on the old boilers.

In addition, new boilers are better suited to heat radiant in-floor applications.

What to look for in a new Boiler

Efficiency - Most new boilers are in the 94-96% range.

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Pumps - High efficiency pumps have been on the market for a few years now; also consider a system design that reduces the number of pumps to save energy. E.g. use zone valves instead of pumps.

Venting - Consider venting out the chimney to eliminate the exhaust plume from the sidewall vent termination.

Air Elimination - It is important to get any air out of the system.

Dirt Remover - Dirt, sludge and small iron bits can be found in older boiler systems; make sure your new system has a dirt remover equipped with a magnet to remove iron.

Hydronic Unit - Afterglow strongly recommends installing a multi-circuit Hydronic Unit to allow the addition of application: zones; floor heat; snow melt; etc.



Indirect Water Heater - Add an Indirect Water Heater to heat your domestic hot water off the High Efficiency Boiler. This is the superior method to heat hot water for your house.

Choose from an enamel-steel tank versus stainless steel tank.

What Next?

Call Afterglow to get more help on your decision about your boiler.