



Time to upgrade your furnace?

There are several reasons to upgrade a gas furnace: age, efficiency and size. While replacing a furnace can be costly – \$2,500 to \$3,000 (unit plus installation) – it can also save big bucks in the long run.

AGE Heating systems last about 25 years with proper maintenance. A qualified heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) contractor can advise you on replacing the unit.

EFFICIENCY Even if your furnace hasn't reached its 25th birthday, it may not be functioning as well as it could. Inefficient furnaces are bad news for the environment and your wallet. In fact, the energy cost of an inefficient furnace can be nearly double that of an efficient one.

Older furnaces, especially those made before 1992 (when federal minimum efficiency standards began), have a low annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE). The AFUE tells you how much energy is being converted to heat. For instance, if your furnace has an AFUE of 65 percent, that means that 65 percent of the gas used by the furnace warms your home, and the other 35 percent escapes as exhaust.

Older gas furnaces generally have AFUE ratings of 55 to 65 percent. New furnaces are required to have an AFUE of at least 78. Furnaces with the ENERGY STAR distinction have an AFUE of 90 percent or greater. The highest-rated models have an AFUE of 97 percent, losing just three percent to exhaust.

SIZE Most homes have units that are larger than necessary. Furnaces that are too large operate less efficiently than properly sized furnaces because they cycle more often. They are also more expensive initially.

If you decide to put a new furnace in your home, don't just replace it with a furnace of the same size. Have an HVAC contractor help you decide what size furnace is needed.

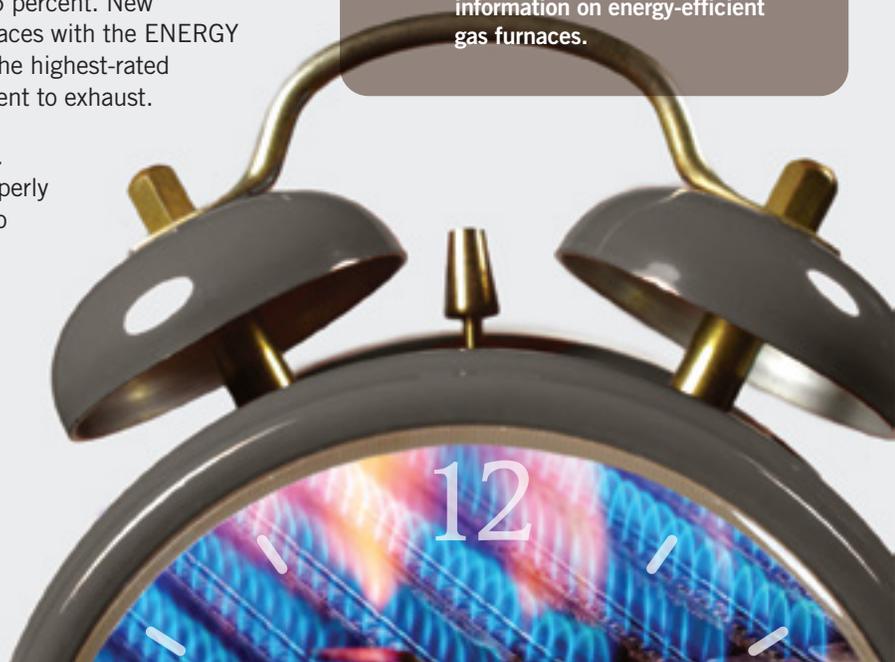
...the energy cost of an inefficient furnace can be nearly double that of an efficient one.

Ready to buy?

Here's what to remember:

- 1** Take a look at the most energy-efficient models (those with the ENERGY STAR label) and determine if they fit your needs. The higher efficiency models may cost more up front, but could save you money in the long run.
- 2** Get a reliable HVAC contractor to identify and install the correct furnace for your home.
- 3** No matter the age of your furnace, proper maintenance, like changing the filter, is a must. An HVAC contractor should check your furnace twice a year – spring and fall – to ensure it is in good working condition.

Visit energystar.gov for more information on energy-efficient gas furnaces.



gas up the stove

olive oil
burrito-sized flour tortilla
spaghetti sauce
pepperoni
mozzarella cheese
Optional toppings: various meats and cheeses, onions, peppers, olives, etc.

Senator's Simple Homemade Pizza

Spread olive oil lightly on the tortilla and place under broiler until it starts to brown. Repeat the process on the flip side of the tortilla. Spread the spaghetti sauce on one side of the tortilla. Sprinkle mozzarella cheese then add toppings. Add a little more cheese. Place under broiler just until cheese melts. Slice and serve.

Submitted by **Toney Senator of Norcross**. Featured recipes are not independently tested so we must depend on the accuracy of the cooks sending them. Always use safe food handling, preparation and cooking procedures from the recognized experts.

Send us your recipes!
The best entry each month will appear in the **Gasette** and receive a free cookbook.

Send recipe, name, address to:
Walton Gas
Attn: Recipe
P.O. Box 260
Monroe, GA 30655
or gasette@waltonemc.com

Great
weeknight
family fun!



Find the right person for the job

Most homeowners don't think about their heating and cooling system until something goes wrong. When it does, you need a professional.



Consider the following before hiring an HVAC contractor:

1. Does the contractor hold necessary licenses?
2. Can the contractor offer references near you?
3. Was the contractor trained by either the manufacturer of the furnace or a technical school?
4. What is their guarantee on service? How long is it, and does it cover both parts AND labor?
5. Is the company fully insured?
6. Does the contractor take time to answer your questions and explain options thoroughly?

It's a good idea to get estimates from more than one company to compare price/service options.

Rebates from Atlanta Gas Light

Atlanta Gas Light (AGL) offers three types of conversion rebates: water heater, heat pump and furnace. Rebates range from \$100 to \$1,000.

Exclusive, additional manufacturer rebates from Rinnai, GenSpring and Bosch are also available.

Visit atlantagaslight.com/residential/rebates for full terms and conditions.

For questions, please contact AGL directly at 1800.599.3770.

▶ **Need a qualified natural gas contractor? Visit atlantagas.com/contact-us/find-contractor**



Cutting board update

If you signed up or renewed at the 24-month rate and have not received your Georgia Proud cutting board, don't worry. Due to the popularity of the boards, we're working extra hard to make deliveries as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience, and thanks for choosing Walton Gas!



Toll Free **866-WEMCGAS** (936-2427)
or **770-267-2505**

Front Counter Hours
Weekdays, 8 AM to 5 PM

Call Center Hours
Weekdays, 7 AM to 7 PM

Monroe 842 US Hwy. 78 NW

Snellville 3645 Lenora Church Rd.

Watkinsville 2061-D Hog Mountain Rd.

Allen Powers
Director of Gas Operations

Philip Peters
Commercial Accounts Only

Savannah Chandler, MCC
Communications Coordinator

Greg Brooks, MCC
Community and Public Relations Director

Call Atlanta Gas Light to report gas leaks or emergencies anytime.

Inside Metro Atlanta 770-907-4231

Outside Metro Atlanta 877-427-4321



"Highest in Residential Customer Satisfaction with Retail Gas Service Three Years in a Row." —J.D. Power and Associates