



heating

All prices are estimates

COSY FLEXIBILITY

Having the right heating system to warm a specific area or the entire home can have an impact not just on comfort levels but also energy bills

WINTER can be a daunting prospect if you don't have an efficient heating system in place. Fortunately, there are portable, built-in and central heating systems available to suit every home and every budget.

"Consumers purchasing any form of heating should look very carefully at their needs and do the research before investing in major home heating systems or space heating appliances," says Chris de Florac, marketing manager at Black and Stone.

Efficiency is the buzzword when it comes to heating your home. Home heating (and cool-

ing) costs account for about 40 per cent of the average annual household energy budget. With energy costs set to rise sharply over the next few years, heating systems need to be extremely energy-efficient to keep household bills down.

"It's no surprise that winter is the season where we use the most power and create the most carbon pollution," says Gregor Black, Noiro Australia national sales and marketing manager. "It's therefore important to make the right decisions that will impact both your comfort levels and heating bills."

Central heating systems are ideal if you

want to heat the entire home. Ducted gas heating quietly distributes warm air throughout your home within minutes. It's also cheaper to run than any other central heating system.

The latest ducted gas heaters on the market feature "zoning" systems that divide the home into separate temperature zones, giving homeowners the flexibility to vary temperatures from room to room.

If, however, you need to heat only a room or a small space, look at portable space heaters.

"Portable gas heaters are the most economi-

REAL FLAME PYROTECH DELUXE

Features:

- New deluxe gas fireplace from Real Flame
- Comes with full wireless remote control incorporating a seven-day day programmable timer
- Electric ignition
- Modulating thermostatic control
- Auto two-speed fan
- 4.1-star energy rating
- Available in black or stainless-steel finishes

Price on application, www.realflame.com.au,
phone: (03) 9428 4443





ECOSMART XL BURNER

Features:

- Elongated burner ideal for residential and commercial premises
- Includes baffles for fuel efficiency and drafters for flame stability
- Has a smart filling point
- Features a new design shut-off mechanism (hinged plate adjustment rather than sliding mechanism)
- Ethanol-fuelled

Price on application. For more information and stockists, visit www.ecosmartfire.com

LOOK FOR THE STARS

Be sure to look for the stars when you're choosing a gas heater. The Australian Gas Association uses a star-rating system to evaluate the energy efficiency of gas appliances – the more stars, the better the rating



**BLACK AND
 STONE VIOFLAME
 VFC2100RWG**

Features:

- Designer fireplace that combines gloss white and stainless steel
- Suitable for interior or covered exterior space
- Extra-large, 5-litre stainless-steel burner
- Fuelled by ethanol
- Flue-less and fully portable

\$1199, from Black and Stone,
www.blackandstone.com.au,
phone: 1300 089 001

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cal with high star ratings of 5.9 stars," says Ossie Symons, Rheem's national manager for climate systems.

"Gas fireplaces and other types of heating products have lower star ratings."

The move towards eco-friendly heating systems has seen log fires fall out of favour in the last decade or so, mainly because they contribute to Perth's winter air pollution.

"Over the last 10 years, environmental awareness has changed consumers' perception of natural flame products such as wood stoves and open fires," says Chris de Florac.

"While still popular, they are becoming increasingly difficult to install and operate due to tighter environmental regulations and local council requirements."

The most eco-friendly fireplaces are those that run on a biofuel such as ethanol. Derived from plants, ethanol is a clean and environmentally friendly fuel that creates an aesthetic flame and burns for a long time.

"In our experience, ethanol fireplaces are becoming increasingly popular," says Stephane

Thomas, one of the founders of The Fire Company, which designs and manufactures EcoSmart Fires and Blu Box Fireplaces.

"The technology has been around for about 30 years – people still use spirit stoves to go camping – but it's the packaging and the appearance of it that makes it different.

"The fact that there's no need for a chimney, no need for a complicated gas or electricity connection, means there's no mess, no fuss. Plus the versatility is fantastic."

Lisa Amphlett



NOIROT EVOLUTION

Features:

- Electric convector heater
- Available in medium, tall, low and skirting models
- Variety of heat outputs
- Styled to fit any room
- Energy-efficient operation

Priced from \$499, from major electrical retailers. Visit www.noiro.com.au or phone: 1300 664 768



BLU BOX FIREPLACE

Features:

- Chimney-free, easy to install and simple to operate
- Run on denatured ethanol, a clean-burning, renewable liquid fuel
- Available as a stand-alone, portable fireplace (in different shapes and surrounds), stainless-steel firebox insert or as a burner kit
- 2.5-litre Blu Box Burner heats a space of more than 20m for more than six hours
- More than 90 per cent fuel-efficient

Stand-alone fire furniture priced from \$1990, firebox insert from \$1295, burner kit \$595, from The Fire Company. For more information, visit www.bluboxfireplaces.com.au



RINNAI SYMMETRY

Features:

- Gas log flame fire with impressive heat output
- 4.2-star energy rating
- Operates on natural gas
- Sits almost flush against the wall
- Features a realistic eucalyptus log set

Price on application, www.rinnai.com.au, phone: 1300 555 545



KAMBROOK CARBON TOWER HEATER

Features:

Heater that uses carbon technology to provide instant warmth

The heater's carbon element sends out safe infrared waves that are easily absorbed by the body and stimulate circulation

Two heat settings

Oscillates 60 degrees to spread the warmth around the room

Three-hour auto-off timer as well as a cut-out switch should it be knocked over

Uses only 1000 watts of power

\$199.95, from Kambrook,
www.kambrook.com.au,
phone: 1300 139 798



CANON FITZROY

Features:

New gas log heater designed and built in Australia

Choose from options such as remote thermostat controls, mesh or glass front, stainless-steel internal panels (for an enhanced flame effect) and a metallic black enamel or platinum finish

Enhanced flame view brings the logs to life

Powerflue can vent up, down and horizontally out the back, making it the perfect solution for heating as it can be installed on an external wall

5.05-star energy rating

Priced from \$2999, www.cannonheaters.com.au,
phone: 1300 727 421