



## Tankless Water Heaters: The High-Efficiency And Eco-Friendly Choice

When you heat water using a traditional tank water heater, you're paying to keep the entire tank of water heated -- whether you need hot water or not. A tankless water heater is more efficient since it heats water upon demand. Install one and you'll have an endless supply of hot water without wasting energy. Additional benefits of a tankless water heater include:

- Efficiency — Up to 40% more energy-efficient than a traditional "tank" gas water heater
- Size — Only about the size of a carry-on suitcase
- No tank — So there is nothing to leak
- Long-lasting — Average lifespan is about 20 years or more
- Eco-friendly — Produces less CO2 (carbon dioxide) and N2O (nitrous oxide) than conventional water heaters.

Saving energy means lower energy bills and reducing your carbon footprint. Give **Edwin Stipe, Inc.** a call at **610-258-0210** to learn more about converting from a traditional natural gas water heater to a natural gas tankless water heater.

## Tune-Up For Top Performance

The days may still be warm enough that you're running your air conditioner every day. But cooler weather is coming sooner than you think, and it's time to get your heating system ready for its big debut. The difference between a cozy home or a downright chilly one can be as simple as scheduling a fall tune-up for your heating system. Regular pre-season maintenance will help it operate at peak efficiency, which can result in lower utility bills and a longer life for the system. **Edwin Stipe, Inc.** will make sure your furnace is ready for cold weather.

Our tune-up service includes thorough maintenance procedures and inspections of your system. It allows us to detect minor problems and correct them before they develop into serious hazards.

One of our professionally trained technicians will check the system's electrical functions and ignition controls; test belts, filters, valve and drains; clean the blower motor and blower wheel; inspect and clean the flue; and check the burners and heat exchange.

Whatever type of heating equipment you may have, there are several safety controls designed to protect you from the risks of fire and toxic fumes should something go wrong. We'll check the appropriate safety controls to make sure nothing has deteriorated during the off-season.

Schedule a pre-season tune-up with **Edwin Stipe, Inc.** today.



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# Changing SEASONS

A PUBLICATION FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF EDWIN STIPE, INC.



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## Save Energy Dollars Around Your Home

Have you ever stopped to consider how much money you spend to operate your home's major appliances? According to the EPA, American households spend almost \$1,000 each year on appliance usage. So when it's time to purchase a new appliance, look for the Energy Star® label, designating products that are built to save energy. Not only will energy-efficient appliances decrease your utility bills, but when used properly, you'll also

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reduce your personal impact on the environment.

**Refrigerators:** Refrigerators last an average of 13 years. High-efficiency models can consume up to 40% less energy, with a potential to save at least \$150 over a year of use. And did you know there are refrigerators on the market that use less energy to operate than a 60-watt light bulb? Some best practices are to keep your refrigerator set at 35–38°F, allow air to circulate behind it, and keep it full so it won't lose as much coolness when the door is open.

**Dishwashers:** On average, dishwashers last about 9–13 years. If you're using a high-efficiency dishwasher over this time period, you'll use half as much water and 40% less electricity, which can equal a big cost savings! Run full loads whenever possible to save water and energy. Clean out the food trap and periodically run a maintenance load with 1 c. of vinegar and then again with 1 c. of baking soda to ensure dishes come out sparkling every time.

**Ranges & Ovens:** The lifespan of an electric range is about 13–15 years and a gas range will last around 15–17 years. If you have a high-efficiency induction range you'll use less energy because it heats cookware much faster and doesn't allow as much heat to escape. Regularly cleaning the cooktop and the oven will help extend its lifespan.

**HVAC Systems:** If your HVAC system is more than 10–15 years old, you're probably not getting the most efficiency for your energy dollars. A new high-efficiency system can save you money on operating costs. ■



**Take an interactive room-by-room tour for more ways to save energy and money around your home. Go to [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) and search Energy Star @ Home.**

## With Furnaces, Size Does Matter

Is bigger better? Does smaller equal efficiency? One of the biggest misconceptions people have when purchasing a new furnace is that bigger means better and that smaller-sized units won't produce as much heat. This is not necessarily the case.

The best way to accurately determine the right-sized unit for your home is to have a load calculation performed. An oversized furnace will kick on and shut off frequently (called short cycling), resulting in energy inefficiency and longterm damage to the unit. Conversely, an undersized furnace will run continuously, raising your energy bills and failing to adequately heat your home.

When it's time to replace your furnace, contact us and we'll help you determine the right size and model for your home. ■



A properly sized furnace is critical to efficiency, so let us help guide you through your options when it's time for replacement.

**Tip**

Kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans pull hot air out of your home, so use sparingly during months when you're using your furnace.

## Ways To Keep Your Furnace Happy

We all count on our furnace to keep us warm. However, improper care may be lessening its efficiency. Here are a few tips to help:

**Regular filter changes.** Air filters protect components from dirt, which will cause damage and dramatically decrease energy efficiency.

**Regular system checkups.** Just like your car, your furnace requires regular maintenance to run at its best. Also, small problems are detected early before they turn into big problems.

**De-clutter the furnace area.** Keep the area around the furnace clean and clear of clutter. This reduces fire hazard and makes sure the furnace can get all the air it needs for proper combustion.

**Use a programmable thermostat.** Lowering the thermostat's temperature setting at night can reduce the load on your furnace. And since everyone's asleep, the temperature difference won't be felt as much. ■



Regular maintenance helps prevent breakdowns and extends the life of your HVAC equipment.

## Question & Answer



Proper air duct maintenance helps ensure cleaner indoor air for your home.

### How important are air ducts to my home's indoor air quality?

Everyone's home is different. Some households produce large volumes of dust, mold and allergens, which can permeate air ducts and diminish the quality of indoor air. The wisest thing to do is schedule a duct inspection. There are some things that can trigger the need for a duct cleaning:

- Substantial visible mold growth inside your ductwork
- Ducts clogged with excessive amounts of dust and visible particles
- Ducts infested with insects or rodents

Often, ductwork needs to be re-sealed as well. If leaks go unchecked, pollutants and allergens can enter ductwork and contaminate your living space. Proper air duct maintenance not only improves air quality, but also impacts energy bills by reducing the amount of heated or cooled air that escapes.

As home comfort experts, we can ensure that every part of your heating and cooling system is working correctly and efficiently. ■

## Earth & Atmosphere

### Insight on Twilight

Twice a day you can catch a glimpse of sunrays dancing in the sky while the sun is not actually visible. What you're experiencing is twilight.

While the sun is below the horizon, light scatters through small particles in the atmosphere and creates opulent pinkish shades in the sky. These note the arrival or descent of the sun. Twilight occurs in three phases, which are dictated by the degrees the sun is below the horizon.

**Civil Twilight** occurs when the sun is 6 degrees or less below the horizon. There's enough light outdoors to see and this is typically when street lights come on or off.

**Nautical Twilight** generally requires artificial light as the sun is between 6–12 degrees below the horizon and there's no longer a visible horizon against the sky.

**Astronomical Twilight** exists when the sun is 12–18 degrees below the horizon and the glow has left the sky. In the evening, it's after astronomical twilight when the sky becomes dark and celestial bodies are best viewed. ■



When viewed from space, twilight is marked by the shadow line on Earth, which shows a gradual transition into darkness.