

# Fall in love with your heating again



Reduce your  
heating bills  
with

**oilsave**   
efficient safe energy

# Worried about your energy bills? We're here to help!

With energy prices rising and great pressure on household budgets, it's sensible to question whether your existing heating system is still the best option, but getting reliable information isn't easy. For off mains gas customers there are a lot of options available, with established technologies like oil, electric heating, solid fuel and LPG competing with a new breed of so-called 'renewable' heating systems, including air source heat pumps and biomass boilers.

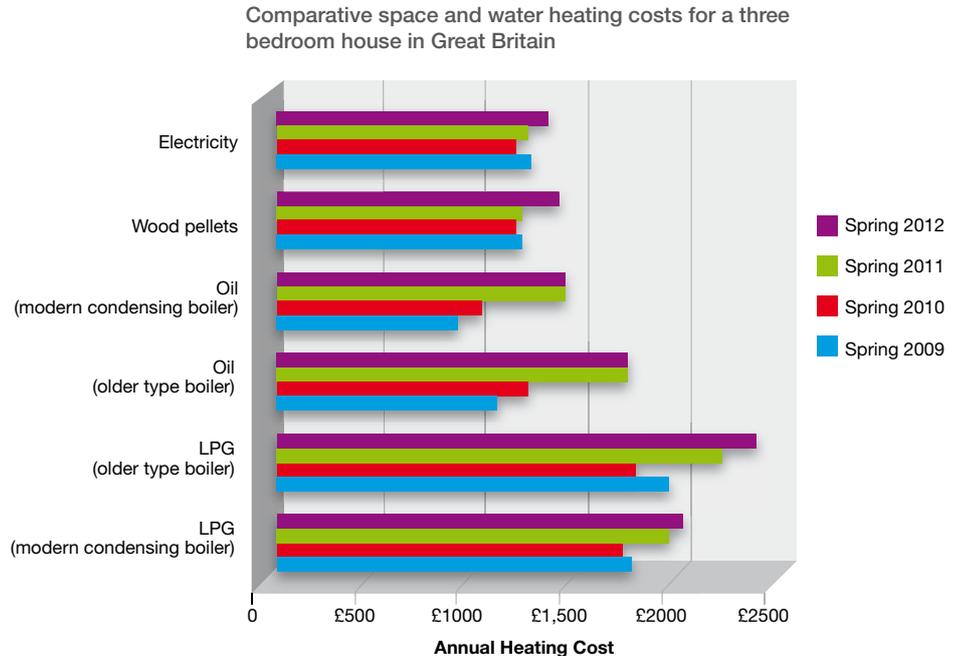


# There's lots of hype out there, but what are the facts?

The good news is that, as an oil heating customer, you already have the best heating system for off mains gas areas. But don't take our word for it. Independent data, collected by the Sutherland tables shows that, over the last four years, oil has competed favourably on price with its main competitors.

But it's not just about price; there are many other factors to consider. Oil heating has been around for a long time and we really know how to get the most out of it. Oil is an efficient, flexible fuel that will give you reliable and controllable heat, whenever you want it, without any fuss or bother. You can choose when and where you buy your oil and instalment payment options are usually available to help spread the cost.

Maintenance is also straightforward. Regular servicing by a skilled technician will ensure your system works efficiently for many years and, when the time comes to replace your boiler, there are excellent choices available. The latest condensing boilers offer significant efficiency improvements over older models.



## Our five step guide to maximise your energy efficiency and reduce bills:



If you haven't already done so, upgrade your existing oil boiler to a high efficiency condensing unit. We calculate that for a typical family home, this could reduce your energy bills by about 20%. It will also reduce your carbon emissions.



Do everything you can to maximise the energy performance of your home. Increasing your loft and wall insulation or adding double glazing can really help to reduce your energy bills.



Improve your system controls. Room controls and thermostatically controlled radiators mean you only heat the rooms you need – preventing unnecessary energy use.



Combine your oil system with renewable energy to give you a 'best of both worlds' solution (see Oil+1 for more details).



Turn it down and shop around. Surprising as it sounds, many people overheat their homes. Just turning your thermostat down by one degree can save a lot of money. Buying your oil in the summer and shopping around for the best price could also make a considerable difference to how much you pay.

## It's so easy to upgrade

To find out more about energy efficiency and the contact details of your nearest OFTEC registered technician or FPS fuel supplier, visit the Oilsave website: [www.oilsave.org.uk](http://www.oilsave.org.uk)

## Oil+1 – your ticket to the future of oil heating!

If you already have good insulation and a modern boiler there are still things you can do to improve your existing system. The great thing about oil heating is that it combines well with other heating. In the next few years, integrating oil heating with renewables is likely to become even easier and more popular.

It's already easy to combine oil heating with solar thermal. This can be a very effective way to save money and reduce your carbon emissions. The solar system will help to heat your hot water, greatly reducing the amount of time you'll need to run your oil boiler or electric immersion heater.

Another option is to install a small solid fuel room heater alongside your oil heating. A wood or pellet burning stove can provide useful heat on days when you don't need to heat the whole house - great for a cosy living room or kitchen/diner.

Oil can also work well with an air source heat pump. The heat pump provides a comfortable level of heating during milder weather while the oil boiler is ready to do the really hard work once temperatures begin to fall. This approach avoids some of the difficulties associated with heat pumps which usually require other very costly home improvements to work effectively as a standalone heating system. Fully integrated systems that combine an oil boiler and air source heat pump are likely to be commercially available within a few years.



## What about a fully 'renewable' system?



## Compare installation costs

The chart compares the cost of replacing an oil fired boiler with a renewable heating system in a typical detached house in the UK.

Prices correct 2011. Prices assume that the existing pipe-work and radiator system would be retained.

† Upgrade standard efficiency oil boiler to a new high efficiency condensing boiler.

\* Prices do not include the cost of decommissioning the existing oil-fired boiler.

† Prices do not include any additional insulation that may be required.

It's claimed that 'renewable' heating systems, based on ground source or air source heat pumps, are cheaper to run than existing oil-based heating systems. In a modern home, with double glazing and excellent loft and cavity wall insulation, this may be true. However, you will still need to upgrade your radiators and/or install under floor heating to achieve the necessary levels of performance.

If you live in an older property, the chances are your house won't have the necessary thermal efficiency to make switching to a heat pump a viable option. The additional work you will need to carry out to upgrade your home will make the total installation cost extremely high. It's far cheaper and more sensible to improve your existing arrangements, as our table shows.

A third renewable option is a biomass boiler, which runs on wood pellets. These systems have low carbon emissions but cost about the same to run as oil. The cost of wood pellets may also rise as biomass systems become more popular. Biomass boilers are much larger than an oil heating system - they typically need their own room - so are better suited to large properties. There have also been recent concerns over the safe storage of the wood pellet fuel and the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

## Choosing a technician

It's important to choose the right technician and avoid 'cowboys' - untrained or incompetent workmen. For oil-fired central heating we recommend that you choose an OFTEC registered technician because this is the best guarantee of receiving a high standard of service for your oil heating needs. OFTEC registered technicians are considered to be 'competent persons' and are independently assessed every five years. There are well over 9,000 technicians registered with OFTEC throughout the UK, so there should be someone working in your area.

To find an OFTEC registered technician, visit the Oilsave website.



## Choosing a fuel delivery company

There are hundreds of fuel distributors throughout the United Kingdom. From the most remote rural location to the heart of the city, you're sure to find a fuel distributor close at hand.

For complete peace of mind, choose a fuel distributor that is a member of the FPS - the Federation of Petroleum Suppliers, an organisation that promotes the highest standards of professional service.

To find your local fuel distributor, visit the Oilsave website.





## About Oilsave

Oilsave is a new service for oil heating and cooking customers, delivered in partnership by OFTEC and FPS – the organisations that support and uphold standards in the oil heating and cooking industry. The aim of Oilsave is to provide advice and information to enable oil customers to maximise energy efficiency and save money. We believe passionately that oil heating is a great way to heat your home!

## Find out more

You can find out more by visiting the Oilsave website: [www.oilsave.org.uk](http://www.oilsave.org.uk)



Working in partnership to support owners of oil heating and cooking systems



The *energy* behind liquid fuels