

Many advances in oil furnace technology

Oil-heating technology has come a long way in recent years — so far, in fact, that new furnaces can operate at efficiencies of more than 90 per cent.

Furnace efficiency refers to the percentage of available heat that is actually delivered to the living space in your house. Homeowners in search of a new furnace will come across two common measurements: seasonal and steady-state efficiency.

Seasonal efficiency rates the performance of a furnace throughout an entire heating season. It takes into account the less efficient start-up and cool-down stages of the firing cycle, as well as the periods of peak performance. Seasonal efficiencies are not yet available for most furnaces in Canada (when figures are available, they are most often used to compare new equipment).

Steady-state efficiency is calculated during the furnace's peak performance period — after the furnace is warmed up and before it cools down. It indicates the optimum performance level achieved by a furnace and is usually higher than the seasonal efficiency figure

for a given appliance.

Most oil furnaces in Canada more than five years old are conventional units, typically equipped with a conventional burner and a barometric damper. A well maintained, well tuned conventional furnace will generally operate at about 73 per cent steady-state efficiency and 60 per cent seasonal efficiency.

New oil furnaces on the market are either based on the conventional model (but equipped with efficiency-enhancing devices) or are of an altogether different, improved design.

One of the most common pieces of equipment installed on new furnaces is the flame retention head burner. This burner improves the oil-air mixture, which results in more complete combustion and less soot deposit on the heat-exchange surface. Retention head burners also facilitate significant nozzle downsizing, enabling the furnace to better meet the heating requirements of the house and reduce fuel consumption.

Welcome to another beautiful winter

(NC)—If you drive your car in the "salt belt," it will need all the corrosion protection you can give it this winter.

The "salt belt" can be found throughout the United States and Canada wherever winter weather makes icy roads hazardous. Nearly 13 million tons of salt and corrosive de-icing agents are dumped on roads each winter — nearly 10 times the amounts used in 1955. This is bad news for automobiles, but ZIEBART — the rust protection experts — has some good advice.

Rust Protection

- Have your car thoroughly inspected by a professionally-trained, rust protection technician.
- A qualified technician should power-wash wheel wells to remove built-up, salt-laden road deposits. Caked mud should be loosened and removed and drain holes opened before beginning the rust protection process.
- Using engineered microfilm specifications for each vehicle, the technician should apply a proven, top-quality rustproofing sealant.
- Make sure the direct spray application of rust protection is used — not ineffective fogging or oiling methods — in order to reach the hidden areas of vehicles most susceptible to rust.
- Look for a lifetime warranty that covers the entire vehicle.

- Keep your car's rust protection current by following up with annual maintenance inspections.

Winter Car Care Tips

In addition to rust protection, ZIEBART recommends the following winter car care tips to help keep your vehicle corrosion-free.

- Wash your car regularly. A car wash should use fresh — not recycled water — which can contain salt or chemicals from other cars.
- Make certain all washed areas, including hard-to-reach spots, are thoroughly dried with a soft towel or chamois cloth.
- During cold weather, don't park your car in a heated garage — this speeds up corrosion.
- Repair and repaint any scratches, dents or stone-damaged paint to prevent outer body rusting.
- If your car is involved in an accident, have any damaged or replacement body metal rust protected before taking the car back out on the road.



Damaging salt can corrode your car and cost you money unless you take preventive measures this winter, warns Ziebart.

Book now at Black Creek for winter activities

A ride in a horse-drawn sleigh can be a particularly memorable experience when it's in a unique setting — and few places are as special as the snow-covered streets of Black Creek Pioneer Village.

Black Creek is the re-creation of a typical 19th-century rural Ontario village. During the winter months, the restored buildings are closed, but the grounds are open to the public on weekends, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Horse-drawn sleigh rides are offered to the public on weekends, weather permitting, while groups can book sleigh rides during weekdays and evenings. In addition, visitors can skate on Black Creek's natural ice rink, pause for food and refreshments in the Black Creek Cafe, and browse through the gift shop.

Admission to Black Creek during winter weekends is \$1 for adults, 50 cents for children. Sleigh rides are an additional 75 cents per individual. To book a group sleigh ride, or for more information, call (416) 736-1733.

Chilly feet need a soak after cold winter day

FROSTBITE: Keep feet warm, dry and moving when outdoors in extreme cold. Put thermal or wool fleece insoles in shoes or boots for extra protection.

CHILLY FEET: If feet feel numb, soak them in tepid (not hot) water until they warm up. Massage feet to help restore circulation: with fingertips, massage from toes, to ball of foot, across arch to the heel.

FOOT ODOR: Feet cooped up in boots all day aren't likely to smell like roses. To prevent an unpleasant scent, use a foot deodorant and spray boots' interiors with a shoe deodorizer. Add deodorant insoles to boots.

DRY SKIN: Skin on the feet tends to become dry and flaky when confined in boots. Daily use of a conditioning lotion can help retain moisture.

Although your feet go undercover in cold weather, regular grooming is necessary to help keep them fit.

1. Soak feet in a lukewarm, mild soapy solution to soften skin.
2. Dry thoroughly and powder feet to help prevent athlete's foot.
3. Clip toenails straight across to avoid ingrown nails.
4. Reduce hardened skin with a pumice stone or file. Areas of rough skin can also be removed with a cream containing a mild abrasive.
5. Apply conditioning lotion containing cocoa butter to help moisturize skin.
6. Use Dr. Scholl's Smooth Touch depilatory that help soften skin as it removes hair.

Galactic winter killed dinosaurs?

USSR (NC) — A direct link may exist between Earth's galactic movement and the demise of dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals. The hypothesis on the relation between their disappearance in the Upper Cretaceous period and the Earth movement, has been advanced by Gurgun Tamrazian, a staffer of the Institute of Geology, Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan (Transcaucasia). He was twice elected vice-president of the planetologists association under the international geological union.

He thinks the extinction of the giant reptiles a normal phenomenon: every 40-45 million years galactic winter comes to Earth and its earlier inhabitants cede ground to others. In the opinion of Tamrazian, such great renovation was due to the grave changes in the geological development and structure of Earth, which were caused by its approaching, or moving away from, the galactic center.

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