

Electric Heating For Your Home?

(NC)—If you're looking at electric heating equipment for your home, explore all the options available. Six types of electric heating equipment are available: forced-air systems, room heaters, hot water systems, radiant systems, combination systems and heat pumps. Forced-air systems deliver heated air to the rooms in a house via a system of duct work. A fan aids heat distribution by forcing the air from the central furnace through the ducts.

Furnaces for forced-air systems are available in a variety of capacities and designs. If a new electric furnace will replace a modern forced-air unit, the existing duct work can generally be used with few changes. If individual room temperature control is a priority, you may want to consider room heaters. In such a system, each room is equipped with a separate heater and thermostat control. A wide range of moderately priced room heaters are available to homeowners. Keep in mind that additional electrical circuits may be required and that the cost of wiring work can significantly increase the installation costs of such a system.

The most common type of room heater is a permanently mounted baseboard heater, which is installed under windows on outside walls. Air heated by the unit is distributed throughout the room by natural convection. Other types of room heaters are available for special installations. Portable convection heaters and wall insert heaters can be installed in confined areas like hallways, entrances and porches. Drop-in and floor insert units are designed for use in front of floor-level windows, patio doors and stairways.



Energy Answers

Electric hydronic, or hot water, systems use a central boiler to heat water, which is then distributed to radiators in each room via piping. A circulating pump promotes effective heat distribution. With all hydronic heating systems, special precautions are necessary to ensure that the water does not freeze in the pipes. Frozen pipes can burst and seriously damage a house and its contents.

Unlike most heating systems, in which the furnace or boiler heats the air in the house and the air in turn warms the occupants, radiant-heating systems transfer heat directly to people and objects. In radiant systems, cables can be imbedded into plaster ceilings or floors, or heating panels can be mounted on (or recessed into) ceilings.

Three combination heating systems involving electricity are available on the market today. If wood is abundant and inexpensive in your area, you might consider using a wood-electric combination. Similar to a standard wood furnace, this new home-heating development contains factory-installed electric heating elements that are activated when heat generated by the wood fuel cannot meet the requirements of the house. Note that electric plenum heaters cannot be added to any forced-air wood furnace. However, electric baseboard heaters are a good supplement to

central wood or wood-oil furnaces.

In homes with an oil hydronic system, a small electric boiler can be added to the existing piping network. A control panel and a series of valves determine which boiler operates. Typically, the electric boiler will work most of the time, and the oil boiler will take over when the weather becomes very cold (oil heating works most efficiently during cold periods).

Oil-electric combination systems consist of an oil furnace featuring factory-installed electric heating elements. (A similar effect is achieved when an electric plenum heater is added to an existing forced-air furnace.) The electric elements supply heat during mild periods, while the oil burner operates in colder weather.

Two types of heat pump are available: air-to-air and earth energy. Heat pumps transfer or pump heat from one place to another. Because transferring heat requires much less energy than producing it, these systems can be remarkably efficient. An important advantage of heat pumps is that they can provide air conditioning in the summer by removing heat from the air in the house and pumping it outdoors.

For more information, call our toll free Hotline at 1-800-267-9563.

What to do in case of fire

Most deaths caused by fire occur in private homes. You should have a plan of escape should a fire occur in your home and you should hold practice fire drills. Following are some rules everyone should know in case of a fire.

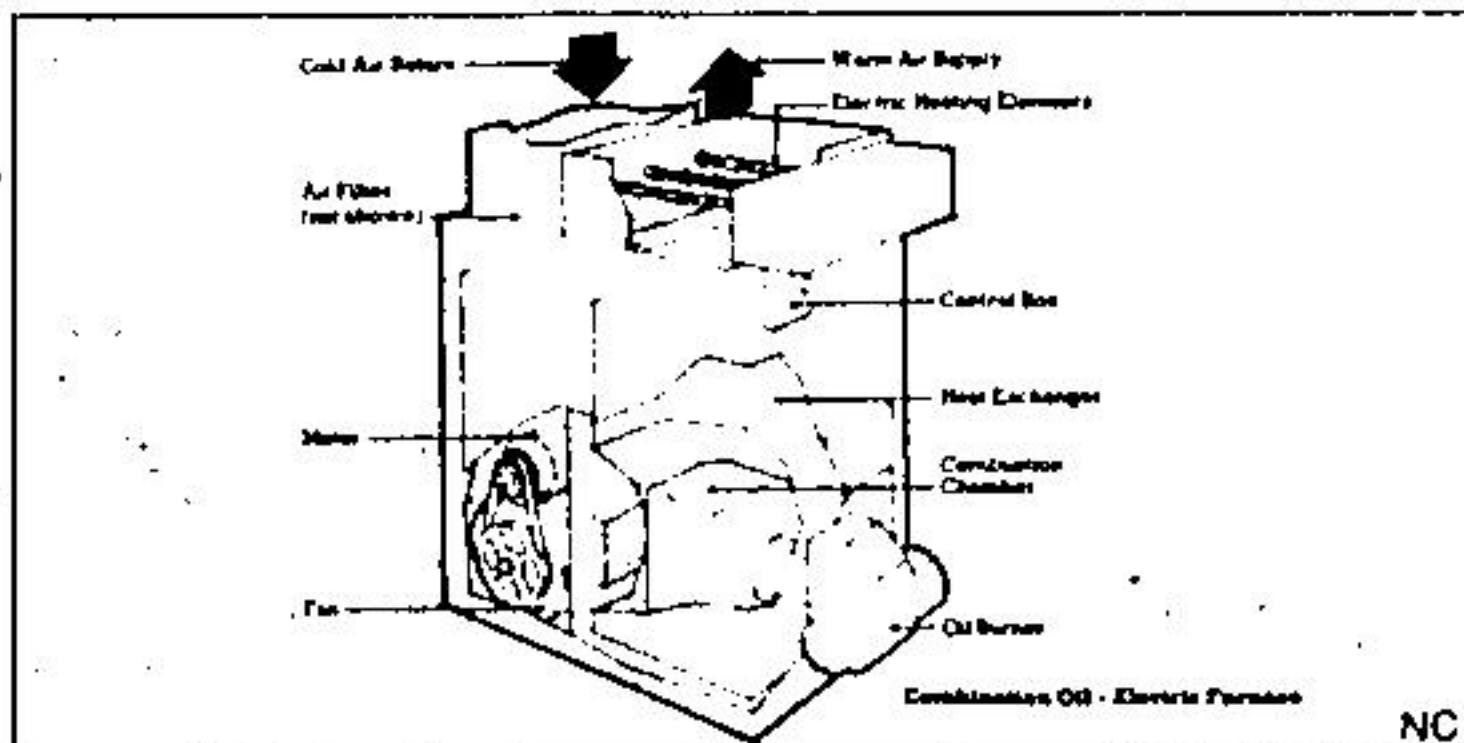
Leave the building immediately. Do not try to fight the fire unless it is confined to a small area.

Never open a door that feels hot. Before opening any door, place your hand on it. If the door feels hot, try another escape route or wait for help.

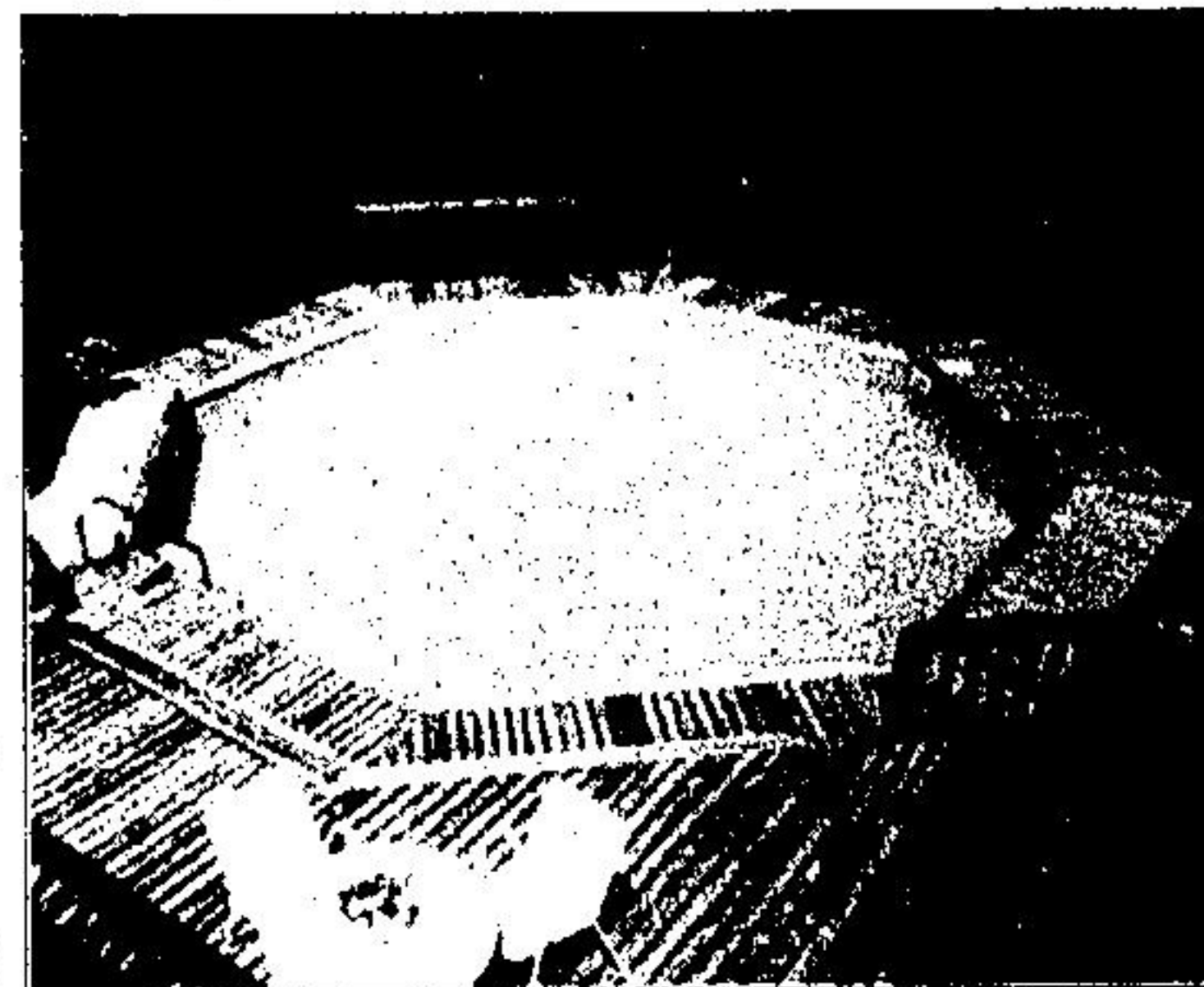
Crawl on the floor when going through a smoky area. Smoke and heated gases tend to rise, and so they will be thinnest near the floor.

Do not run if your clothes catch fire. Roll on the floor to smother the flames.

Do not return to the building for any reason. After you have escaped, call the fire department.



Aboveground: fun and economical



(NC)—Above ground pool with surrounding deck provides a terrific entertainment and leisure area.

(NC)—Thousands of Canadian families have turned their backyards into home leisure and fitness centres with economical, easy-to-install above-ground pools.

Aboveground pools are less expensive than their inground counterparts, can be made equally attractive and are just as functional.

An aboveground pool is basically a round or oval metal structure shell with a vinyl liner. The frame is usually aluminum or steel.

Most aboveground pools can be partially submerged to reduce the effect of their heights above grade. Or they can be set into sloping ground letting their water levels come close to garden level.

Before selecting a location for an aboveground pool, check with the local building inspector. Many communities require that the pool be situated a certain number of feet from a house and from front and side property lines. Also check plumbing and electrical permits, certificates of occupancy and safety

requirements. A Canadian Spa and Pool Association (CANSPA) dealer can provide information about local codes pertaining to swimming pools.

Many aboveground pools come in "kits", which can be assembled by two or three people over a weekend using tools commonly found around the house.

Buyers should be sure their kits contain complete instructions and should review them with their CANSPA dealer before taking the kit home. For less "handy" homeowners, many dealers provide installation at a modest additional cost. Most others can recommend installers.

Once constructed, an aboveground pool will become the centre of family and social activity, recreation and exercise.

For the name of a CANSPA dealer in your area contact: The Canadian Spa and Pool Association, 6303 Airport Rd., Suite 305, Mississauga, Ontario L4V 1R8 Or call Toll Free 1-800-263-6103



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