

How a high efficiency furnace saves you money

If you're thinking about getting a new furnace this winter, thinking 'low' on cost may be top of mind. But when it comes to furnace efficiency, the question should be, 'how high can you go?'

"One of the most important functions of a furnace is its efficiency," says Dean Murray of Reliance Home Comfort. "The higher the rating, the more efficiently the system performs and the greater your energy savings."

All furnaces are given an AFUE rating - Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency - a system that tells you how much energy is being converted into heat by your furnace. If you have a 60% AFUE rating, that means only 60% of the fuel used by your furnace actually heats your house, while the other 40% escapes as exhaust.

"Newer furnaces have been designed much more efficiently so that heat stays inside the house," adds Murray. "The high efficiency furnaces not only result in better home heating, they generate savings on both energy and

fuel consumption. With AFUE ratings now available in the 90s, it's not hard to figure out that having a high efficiency furnace will save you energy."

While a variety of factors can affect energy efficiency, the following chart estimates the difference in heating costs with a 60% efficiency furnace versus a 92% efficiency furnace. These figures are approximations and costs (as well as subsequent savings) will vary depending on the house and its features such as windows and insulation.

Condensing gas furnaces, with seasonal efficiencies of 90 to 97%, are the most energy-efficient models available. The only furnaces that qualify for Energy Star labeling are high efficiency condensing gas furnaces, which release additional heat to the home with a unique heat exchange surface.


You can find more information at reliancehomecomfort.com or by calling 1-866-235-8743.

- News Canada

	1500 sq ft house	2500 sq ft house
Heating bill, 60% efficiency furnace	\$1,182	\$1,856
Heating bill, 92% efficiency furnace	\$795	\$1,212
Annual heating savings	\$387	\$644
Annual electrical savings	\$300	\$300
Total annual savings	\$687	\$944
Savings per month	\$57.25	\$78.67



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SEE PAGE RE7 FOR THIS WEEK'S FEATURE LISTING

Get maximum heat with these furnace maintenance tips

Regular maintenance of your furnace will give you peace of mind and ensure you are maximizing your heat this season. Here are a few helpful tips from Reliance Home Comfort (reliancehomecomfort.com) for good furnace maintenance:

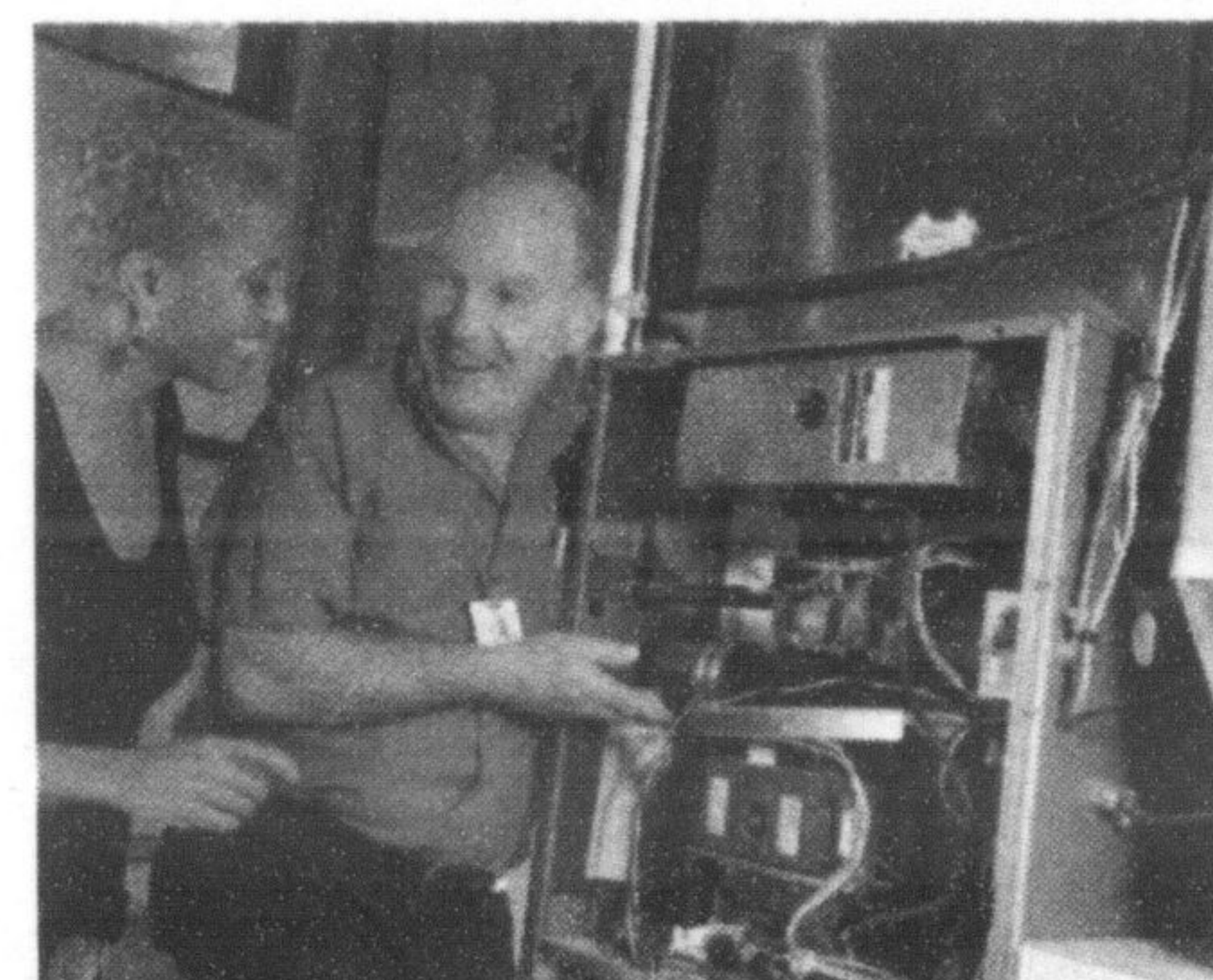
- Have a licensed professional perform an annual maintenance check on your furnace and venting system.

- Remove any obstructions surrounding your furnace to ensure there is good airflow to the unit.

- Clean or replace your furnace filter annually to improve air quality for those with asthma or allergies.

- Reduce wear and tear on your furnace by installing a programmable thermostat to regulate heat throughout the day.

- News Canada



All Real Estate Offices

Please note the deadline times for the Real Estate Section are as follows:

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NEIL OLIVER, Publisher
Advertising Manager: Wendy McNab
Published by: The Canadian Champion, 555 Industrial Drive., Milton, Ont., L9T 5E1,
878-2341 Fax: (905) 876-2364

IAN OLIVER, Group Publisher
Real Estate Rep: Diane Wolstenholme

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