

Advantages

Most Economical – with the lowest operating cost (#1 advantage for commercial projects)

- Considering electric heat? Natural Gas hot water heating systems will lower your fuel-heating bill by up to 40% or more, versus electric heating.
- Considering more traditional hot air heating? Hydronic hot water heating systems offer incomparable heating flexibility, with more control, greater comfort, requiring less energy to operate than forced air furnaces.

Greatest comfort

- Radiant floor heat is even. No hot or cold spots. Because it radiates (like the sun) upward from piping in your floors, there are usually no drafts.
- Hot water heat is automatic and can be clock controlled.
- Hot water heat allows different temperatures in different rooms, for individually customized room temperature levels.

Clean and Quiet

- Allergies? Dust and air borne allergens can be carried and moved about your house through the ductwork of a forced air heating system. Electric baseboard heaters can similarly move dust and allergens around a room by convection. Because there are no ducts and usually no baseboard radiators in a hydronic warm floor heating system, allergy sufferers love their hydronic heating systems because they can breathe easier.
- Because there are no plenums or ducts to reverberate furnace “blower” sounds around your home, hotwater heating systems are much quieter.

Simplicity

- Hydronic heating system designs are not complicated. Boiler heats water. Pump circulates heated water. Water heats house through pipes in floors.
- Warmed floors in every room radiate heat evenly throughout home.

Flexibility

- Drapes need not stop 6" above baseboard as in electric systems
- Ducts are not used and therefore do not take up space or intrude into rooms, closets, and / or ceilings.
- Furniture can be arranged without concern for blocking vents, openings or proximity to baseboard radiators.

Long life

- Hot water heating systems have been around for over 1000 years. Modern systems are expected to last over 100 years.
- Hot water heating components generally require less maintenance and usually outlast forced air furnace

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Advantages continued

components.

Low Maintenance

- Trained service people are readily available in virtually every community.
- Components require minimal maintenance (no ducts to clean, no filters to change, no fan belts to replace)
- water needs to be checked for corrosion bi-annually
- boilers may require cleaning depending on the manufacturer and type

Expandability

- Most hydronic heating systems can easily be extended to accommodate minor additions by adding an additional loop of pipe.
- Can easily add domestic hot water and/or a whirlpool spa (see options below).

Safety

- Electric baseboards and electric radiant ceiling panels are notorious for igniting off drapes, furniture, and/or flammable materials

Most Options

- Heat exchangers allow you to use your boiler to provide domestic hot water, hot water for whirlpool spas, pools, pool surrounds, driveway snow and/or ice melting.
- Planning for the future is easy with a boiler. Size your boiler to allow for the addition of extra zones for pools, snow melting, whirlpools, etc. Try that with forced air or electric heat.

Disadvantages

- high initial cost (long payback) (Note: this does not apply to commercial applications!)
- lack of air movement can create stale air; excess humidity
- no air conditioning
- may require structural changes

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