

### CHOOSING A HEATER WITH AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY CLASS A AND ABOVE IS SMART FOR MY WALLET

Yes, energy efficient heating has a direct positive effect on your energy bill. What's more? Despite the upfront investment needed, energy efficient heating pays off. The longer you wait, though, the more it will cost you – so act now! If you do have an inefficient heating system currently installed in your home, make sure to get it checked and inform yourself about modern alternatives that exist on the market in your country.



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However, how to choose an efficient heating system and how to use it efficiently? Here are 10 misconceptions that could help you see through!

#### **X** A BIOMASS BOILER CREATES HIGH LEVEL OF CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS

Biomass can be used in heating, and wood is the form that is most widely used for that purpose. Wood is carbon neutral as a renewable resource: when burned, the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that was absorbed by the tree during its growth is released. One of the most efficient ways to use wood for heating are central heating biomass boilers, which can provide high comfort efficiently, while reducing the climate impact of heating.

#### **X** ALL NEW EFFICIENT HEATING TECHNOLOGIES NEED HIGH INVESTMENT FOR INSTALLATION

In fact, upfront investment is always needed, yes. However, there are efficient heating systems for all budgets available. The main question is that we should look into the total costs over the lifetime of the system, not only the initial investment. And in this case the higher initial investment is clearly advantageous.

#### **X** TO BE COMFORTABLE IN YOUR HOME, YOU NEED TO HEAT TO MORE THAN 20°C

Comfort is a personal feeling. You can heat your home to 22°C and still be cold. If your home is poorly insulated, damp, or has air leaks, you will experience a temperature lower than that indicated by the thermometer. That is one of the reasons why checking your heater alone is not enough. A good level of insulation is crucial too.

#### **X** THERE IS A SMALL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CONDENSING TECHNOLOGY AND A GOOD OLD BOILER

The difference is significant! Modern condensing appliances are highly efficient and use virtually the entire energy content of the fuel to transform it into heat. Thanks to combustion optimisation and reusing heat energy of water vapour, a condensing boiler can save up to 25% energy compared to an old conventional boiler.



**X IT IS BEST NOT TO OPEN WINDOWS OF YOUR HOME DURING WINTER TO AVOID WASTING HEATING**

Especially in Winter times, it is important to ventilate the rooms 5 to 10 minutes per day to renew the air and evacuate humidity, CO<sub>2</sub>, and bad smells. However, to avoid losing too much heat, turn off the radiators or convectors when ventilating. Smart heating systems help you to detect open windows and optimise heating during all seasons.

**X MY TOWN DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH SUNLIGHT TO INSTALL A SOLAR THERMAL SYSTEM**

That is not a problem! Solar thermal system works without direct solar radiation and in regions with low sunlight.

**X HEAT PUMPS ARE ONLY SUITABLE FOR INDIVIDUAL HOUSES**

Heat Pumps (HPs) are versatile. There are different kinds of heat pumps available (in different sizes), designed for different heat demands and purposes. Some devices are designed to heat/cool an entire house (i.e. gas heat pumps) with multiple rooms while others are better suited for apartments or small studios (air-to-air heat pumps). Most HPs are easy to install, whereas hybrid systems are even suited for renovations.

**X DIRECT ELECTRIC HEATING IS THE MOST ECONOMICAL SOLUTION**

Direct electric heating consumes a lot of electricity, although it is an easy-to-install technology in some homes. Note that electricity prices differ a lot between EU countries. In most cases, the use of (green) gases and biomass remains the most economical solution.

**X FOREST ARE BEING DESTROYED JUST TO PRODUCE FIREWOOD**

Sustainable forestry is an essential achievement of EU agriculture policy. In fact, the forest stand across Europe is quite stable. In addition, wood used for heating does not just come directly from forests but also from production residues (i.e. from industrial wood processing).

**X BIOMASS BOILERS ARE LESS EFFICIENT**

Biomass boilers are the latest and most efficient technology to produce heat in the most ancient way: firing wood. Each year, 40% of the wood sustainably produced in Europe is used for heating in European buildings. Modern heating systems use biomass in the form of pellets, yet multiple options exist. Wood-based central heating systems can supply an entire house with heat throughout the year. Moreover, they can easily be combined with solar thermal systems.

[www.heating-retrofit.eu](http://www.heating-retrofit.eu)

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