

## Oil heat in Oregon: addressing five misconceptions

PORTLAND—The imminent arrival of spring marks the beginning of the home buying and selling season in Oregon. For some new homeowners, it may also be the first time they've encountered an oil-heated home. Anyone unfamiliar with this heating choice probably has questions.

Before making a decision to convert from oil heat to another fuel source or vice-versa, visit [www.OregonOilheat.com](http://www.OregonOilheat.com) which oil heat dealers throughout Oregon created to educate consumers. The site clarifies common misconceptions about oil heat, including:

### 1. Heating oil is old-fashioned

In fact, oil heat is a modern, efficient and environmentally friendly fuel source warming thousands of homes in Oregon. It is a clear liquid that is non-toxic, biodegradable and burns at a level of cleanliness approaching 99.9%. The EPA says that modern oil burners are one

of the cleanest combustion sources, available, releasing near zero levels of smoke and producing less greenhouse gas than natural gas systems.

### 2. Oil heat is more expensive

On the contrary, oil heat is one of the best values in home heating today. Since the 1950's heating oil prices have stayed virtually the same relative to inflation. Moreover, oil heat uses less fuel to produce more heat. By adding an oil-fired hot water heater, homeowners can enjoy unlimited supplies of hot water at a fraction of the cost of a gas or electric water heater.

### 3. You need to convert your home to natural gas in order to sell it

This is simply untrue. Conversion is an expensive process and the Consumer Energy Council of America, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the best interest of consumers, has concluded that it is financially unwise for consumers to convert from oil to gas heat. Staying with oil heat saves you and your buyer money—so make sure you are working with a realtor who is savvy about oil

heat.

### 4. Heating oil is bad for the environment

Because of their high efficiency and cleanliness, modern oil heat systems have an amazingly small impact on the environment. Even better, they are fully compatible with biodiesel, a well-tested and renewable fuel made from vegetable oil like soy and canola grown in America. When used for heating, biodiesel is mixed with regular heating oil to produce a new energy source with even lower emissions.

### 5. Heating with oil is dangerous

Heating oil is one of the safest fuels available without the explosive quality of natural gas. You can actually drop a lit match in a bucket of heating oil and nothing will happen. Heating oil also has an extraordinarily low risk for carbon monoxide poisoning.

For more information, visit [www.OregonOilheat.com](http://www.OregonOilheat.com) or call the Oregon Oil Heat Help Desk at 503-546-5501. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

