



Lowest Heating Oil Prices in Years

This has been a difficult year for energy, with wildly fluctuating prices affecting homeowners not only in Oregon but also throughout America. In July, oil prices hit a record high of \$147 a barrel and homeowners panicked. Some even went as far as to undergo the expensive process of converting from heating oil to natural gas. Unfortunately, some of these homeowners will never recoup their costs. By the end of 2008, the price of crude oil hovered around \$37 a barrel—the biggest slide since trading began in 1983.

For heating oil customers, the price decrease will make heating this winter much more affordable (especially since Mother Nature has already walloped many parts of Oregon with severe winter weather!). Consumers can rest assured that despite the high demand local heating oil dealers are not artificially raising their prices—yet another advantage of being served by independent, local companies that value their customers and compete with one another to remain competitive in the market.

Warm Wishes for a Happy New Year! ♦

Oregon Oil Heat In The News!

Oil heat has been a 'hot' topic of discussion here in Oregon. To see what the media is saying, visit www.OregonOilheat.com and click on "Customer Resources." From there, click on "In the Media" where you can read, view and listen to great information on the benefits of oil heat, including:

- **The Oregonian:** Tips to Stay Warm Without Going Broke
- **KXL 750 AM Radio:** Sticking with Heating Oil over Natural Gas
- **Good Day Oregon (KPTV Fox 12):** The Benefits of Biodiesel Heating Oil
- **Northwest Renovation:** The New/Old Oil-Heated Home Can be Both Green and Cozy
- **Portland Tribune:** Bioheat vs. Natural Gas: Here's How They Match Up ♦

Oil Heat On the Web

Want to Know More About Oil Heat?

Visit www.oilheatamerica.com for a wealth of information about oil heat including oil heating equipment, oil production, the benefits of oil heat, and FAQs. Check out the unique interactive house to discover how to ensure that your home heating system is conserving energy and saving you money.

Have Questions About Bioheat?

Bioheat has been in existence for many years and is gaining popularity as a mainstream alternative for heating when blended with conventional diesel fuel. Learn more about this environmentally-friendly domestic fuel source at www.bioheatonline.com.

Building a Home?

Oil heat is the choice for heat and hot water for more than 13 million homes and businesses in North America. If you are thinking about building a new home, check out www.buildwithoil.com to see why oil heat adds value to your home and makes it more comfortable to live in. ♦



Today's Oil Heat = Clean Heat

Did you know???

- Home heating oil has reduced its carbon footprint by 40% over the last 30 years.
- Natural gas is primarily methane, a poison gas that is 23 times more harmful to the environment than CO₂, the primary greenhouse gas associated with home heating oil.
- Liquefied natural gas has a larger greenhouse gas emissions profile than home heating oil because of emissions associated with its production and transport.
- Thirty years ago, the average oil heat consumer used 1,300 gallons of oil per year. Today, that number has been reduced by nearly 50% thanks to new technology like sidewall venting, indirect water heating and high-efficiency equipment.
- Bioheat, a blend of domestically produced, renewable materials such as soybean oil, has the highest BTU content of any alternative fuel and is extraordinarily clean-burning.

So while you stay warm and cozy this winter, you can also feel good about your decision to heat your home with oil!

Source: *The Energy Communications Council* ♦

Heating Oil Storage Tank ABC's

As every homeowner knows, a little bit of maintenance goes a long way. Eventually you will need to replace the roof or the deck, paint your home, update fixtures—the list goes on. Your heating oil storage tank is no different. Over its life, it will need your attention to ensure safety and performance.

Here are the ABC's of heating oil storage tank ownership:

- New below ground heating oil storage tanks are made with very strong, corrosion resistant materials.
- Above ground heating oil storage tanks are now available in a variety of shapes and sizes and can be installed in small areas in basements, garages and backyards. Many homeowners even surround them with attractive lattice work and plants.
- Upgrading your equipment is a fraction of the cost of converting to another fuel source.
- Home heating oil tanks are not regulated like commercial (gas station) tanks.
- Local oil heat dealers offer tank service contracts for tank replacement and cleanup which cover costs up to \$4,000 dollars in the event of tank failure.
- In Oregon, if a leak is discovered, most of the cost of the tank replacement and cleanup can be covered if you have the Heating Oil Tank Service Contract offered by Oregon Oil heat dealers.
- Tank service contracts are transferable to the new home owner in a real estate sale.
- Soil samples or tank testing are only required when an underground tank is suspected of leaking, or if oil is known to have leaked into the ground.
- Most companies that do soil samples have a vested interest in finding a problem because they make their money on the clean up. Always contact your local oil heat dealer before taking a soil sample. They will provide the name of a trusted tester.
- If you stop using an underground tank, it must be emptied but decommissioning is voluntary.

Your local Oregon oil heat dealer is here to help you evaluate your heating oil storage tank needs. ♦



Winter Recipe: Quick Slow Cooker Turkey Chili

When the days are short and cold, there's nothing like the aroma of chili heating up in a slow cooker. For more recipes, and to create your own online recipe box, visit AllRecipes.com.

Prep Time: 15 Minutes **Cook Time:** 4 Hours **Yields:** 8 servings

INGREDIENTS:

1 tablespoon vegetable oil	2 tablespoons chili powder
1 pound ground turkey	1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
2 (10.75 oz) cans low sodium tomato soup	1/2 tablespoon garlic powder
2 (15 oz) cans kidney beans, drained	1/2 tablespoon ground cumin
1 (15 oz) can black beans, drained	1 pinch ground black pepper
1/2 medium onion, chopped	1 pinch ground allspice
	Salt to taste



DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat the oil in a skillet over medium heat. Place turkey in the skillet, and cook until evenly brown; drain.
2. Coat the inside of a slow cooker with cooking spray, and mix in turkey, tomato soup, kidney beans, black beans and onion. Season with chili powder, red pepper flakes, garlic powder, cumin, black pepper, allspice and salt.
3. Cover, and cook 8 hours on Low or 4 hours on High.

Great topped with cheddar cheese, crushed corn chips, and a dollop of sour cream.

Recipe provided by www.AllRecipes.com. Recipe submitted by Laura K. ♦

Seven Great Reasons to Stick With Oil

1. Oil heat is clean. That's good for the planet. New oil burners achieve efficiency ratings as high as 93% and emit virtually no particulate matter into the atmosphere.
2. Oil heat is safe. That's good for your family. Oil won't explode or start a fire in your chimney. With oil heat, you can sleep well at night knowing your family or business will stay safe and warm.
3. Oil heat is reliable. With oil heat, you have a secure supply of fuel on your property. When you need more, a dependable local dealer will deliver it when you call. With over 36 oil-producing countries, the U.S. is not dependent on any one region—and total proven reserves are about 60% higher than they were in 1985.
4. Oil heat is versatile. It can be used in forced air, boilers or radiant appliances. Air conditioners, air cleaners and humidification systems can be added to your home, and it's great for pools and hot tubs. Oil can be stored outdoors above ground or underground, or indoors in garages, basements, or utility rooms.
5. Oil heat gives you choice. Oil heat companies compete with one another for your business which keeps your prices as low as possible and ensures excellent customer service.
6. Oil heat bills are easy to understand. With oil, you'll always know where you stand. Oil is sold and delivered in gallons, just like milk or orange juice, instead of other complicated measurements.
7. Oil heat supports local companies. Most dealers are small, family-owned, and multi-generational businesses that live and work where you do—and they'll be there when you need them.

Courtesy of NORA. ♦

For more information about oil heat, please visit
www.oregonoilheat.com.

Or, contact the Oregon Oil Heat Help Desk at
503.546.5501 or **helpdesk@oregonoilheat.com**

