

Which Way Will Prices Go?

It used to be the case that prices for heating oil were fairly easy to predict. Boy, has that changed! Case in point: the U.S. is sitting on the largest inventories of oil in over 27 years, and demand for oil remains well below the usage rates of a few years ago thanks to the sluggish economy. Prices should be plunging, right?

Unfortunately, oil prices bear almost no relationship to the supply or demand for the actual commodity. Fears about inflation and the value of the dollar have led investors to place increasing amounts of money into supposedly “safe” commodity investments. Things like gold—and now, oil. The expectation is that they’ll hold their value. As a result, oil is no longer oil. It’s become a pseudo-currency instead.

There’s no doubt that this phenomenon will end and prices will come back down; it’s just a matter of time. Energy analysts and oil company officials also say they don’t expect the extreme price swings of a few years ago. In the meantime, your local heating oil supplier will continue to buy and sell heating oil on the most favorable basis they can in order to provide you with a stable supply that is priced as effectively as possible. We are here to serve you and we are on your side in this battle to control energy costs. We will do everything we can to keep your houses heated at a reasonable price with the highest level of service. ♦

Fall Into the Battery Change Ritual

Many homeowners use the end of daylight savings (November 7 this year) as a reminder to change the batteries in their fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Likewise, it’s good practice to change the batteries on your programmable thermostats once a year. Programmable thermostats are great for managing the heat of your house and conserving fuel, so make sure that your batteries don’t corrode and render the device useless—leaving you without heat and needing a brand new thermostat. ♦



Friendly Fall Delivery Reminders

- Ensure that your street number is clearly visible from the road.
- When you order oil, inform your delivery company of any unique circumstances or special requirements involving your delivery.
- Make sure that your fill pipe is easily visible for the driver. Remove leaves and branches that may be covering it.
- In case of snow or ice, mark the fill pipe with an overturned bucket or other identifying marker.
- If you cannot be home at the time of delivery, please make arrangements to pay by credit card (or leave a check in a protected baggie at the fill pipe or underneath the door mat).

Your Driver Thanks You! ♦

Oil Heat on the Web

Questions about oil heat?

Looking for a local dealer?

Visit www.OregonOilheat.com for answers or call the Oregon Oil Heat Help Desk at (503) 546-5501. ♦



Heating Oil Vs. Propane

The Oregon Oil Heat help desk took a call from a customer who purchased a vacation home heated with propane. He was surprised at the high cost and inefficiency of propane compared to heating oil. His is not an unusual case. Many people who buy or build a second home, often on acreage, assume that they are limited to propane. They may not realize that they can use propane for their fireplaces and cook tops, while simultaneously taking advantage of the benefits of heating oil to warm their home.

Why choose heating oil over propane? Here are a few good reasons:

- Heating oil is inherently more efficient than propane. Heating oil generates approximately 140,000 BTU's while propane only generates around 91,300 BTU's (a BTU, or British Thermal Unit, is the amount of energy needed to heat one pound of water one degree). In other words, it takes 1.53 gallons of propane to provide the same amount of heat as one gallon of heating oil.
- Because of a hotter flame temperature, heating oil can make three times as much hot water at half the cost of propane. That's because the average recovery rate (the amount of hot water that can be made in one hour) for an oil fired hot water heater is 120 gallons per hour, while the average recovery rate for a gas fired hot water heater is 40 gallons per hour.
- Heating oil is much safer than propane, which is highly flammable and explosive at room temperature. This is why heating oil can be stored inside the home and propane must be stored outdoors.
- The notion that heating oil is "dirty" is a myth. It is a clear, non-toxic and biodegradable liquid. And, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, modern oil equipment burns equally as clean as propane. ♦



Give the Gift of Warmth

Looking for something different to give as a gift this year? Consider sending a gift certificate from your local heating oil dealer to your friends, families and neighbors. Or, put money in someone's oil account as a practical and warm way to share the spirit of the holidays. ♦

What to Do if Your Furnace Won't Come On

Brrrr, it's the coldest night of the year and your heat won't turn on. Here are a few simple steps to try before calling for service.

- Check the thermostat. Make sure it is set to "heat" and turned up to the desired temperature.
- Check the master on/off switch. If it is off, flip it on.
- Check your electrical panel for blown fuses or tripped breakers.
- Make sure the blower door (the panel on the furnace) is securely in place.
- Make sure your furnace filters are clean.
- Press the furnace's reset button ONCE. If the furnace still doesn't come on, call your local service technician. ♦

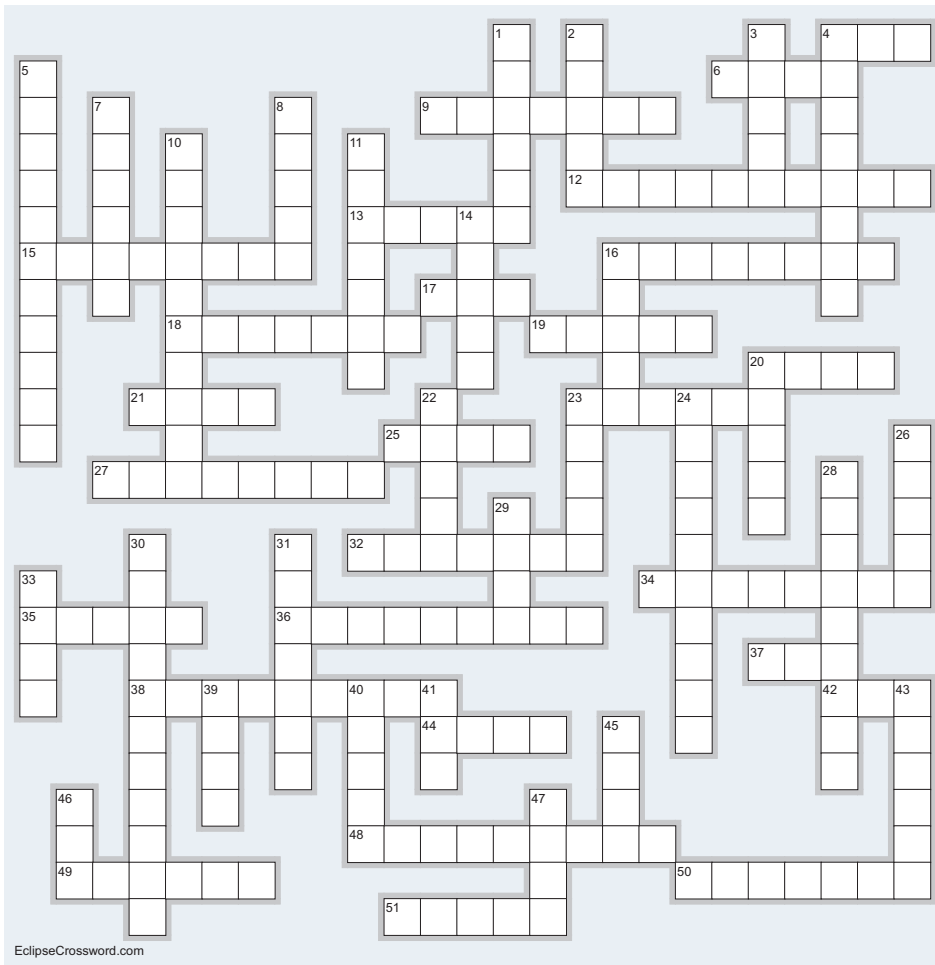
La Niña

What can we expect this winter? It's hard to tell, but forecasters think that we could be in for a colder-than-normal snap.

That's because cool ocean temperatures in the Pacific near the equator are creating what meteorologists call a "La Niña" effect. This generally leads to colder and snowier weather in the Pacific Northwest and the Northern Plains. And while there is no way of knowing when this season will begin (or whether it will ever materialize), homeowners are encouraged to get their furnaces checked and tuned-up as a precaution. ♦



Cozy Up With a Crossword




DOWN

1. "Silas ___" (George Eliot novel)
2. Precipitation in the form of ice pellets
3. Violin's larger relative
4. Strict religious disciplinarians who were among Pilgrim population
5. Icicle-shaped deposits on the roof of a cave
7. Soak up
8. Falls to the ground in flakes
10. A clear, non-toxic, biodegradable fuel source (2 words)
11. Inspect it regularly for maximum efficiency
14. Conductor Previn or pianist Watts
16. Plants of a particular region
20. Cut into slices, as a Thanksgiving turkey
22. Outerwear worn in winter
23. Toronto Maple ___ (N.H.L. team)
24. Keeps heat from leaking out
26. Covering of tiny ice needles on a cold morning
28. Oregon's holiday crop
29. World's longest river
30. National museum and repository in Wash., D.C.
31. The Statue of ___ uses oil heat to keep visitors warm
33. It's sprinkled on icy roads
39. Oregon's 'crooked' city
40. Tiny energy sources
41. Omelet ingredient
43. Rely (on)
45. Church exclamation
46. "Caught you!"
47. Plant with soothing juice

ACROSS

4. Where airplanes come and go (abbrev.)
6. Waiter's handout
9. Gathering of crops before winter
12. Regulates the temperature of a system
13. Doppler ___ (storm detection system)
15. People in charge of museums
16. Heavy rainfall may cause this
17. End of a university's web address
18. Fail to take care of
19. Anchoring tree parts
20. Layers of snow covering mountain peaks, e.g.
21. The warm feeling of an oil-heated home
23. A meteorological event (2 words)
25. Fuel for a Franklin stove
27. The hose from the oil delivery truck connects to this (2 words)
32. Remnants of the distant past
34. Oregon's official state nut
35. Dusty storage room
36. Extremely cold (2 words)
37. "Adios!"
38. What animals do in winter
42. Heating oil is dyed this color for tax purposes
44. A sudden and strong wind
48. Digging out after a snow storm
49. Stop sleeping
50. The hardest substance known to man
51. Corn eaten by the Pilgrims at first Thanksgiving

The solution can be found at
www.oregonoilheat.com/puzzle 





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



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