

Estimating How Much Heat You Need for One Winter In Southern Indiana and Southern Ohio

It is important to realize that every home will use a different amount of energy for winter heating. Many typical homes will fall in an "average heating cost" range, but your home may be different. The purpose of the estimates below is to give you a starting point to compare different fuels and different heating systems. After you use these tables, you should review your heating bills to see if these estimates are close to your actual usage.

The actual amount of heat you use in any given winter will depend on the weather, your living habits, your home's insulation and air leakage, the condition of your heating equipment, sun and wind exposure, the home's design and other variables.

An average home in Southern Indiana or Ohio will use 45 to 75 million BTUs in an average winter. Gray cells indicate the most common heating needs for typical Midwest homes.

Southern Indiana & Ohio, Estimated heat needed per winter, millions of BTUs							
Size of home in Sq Ft ↓	Any age home, no insulation, high air leakage	Old home, insulated, noticeable air leakage	30 to 60 yr old home, medium air leakage	Average, 30 to 60 yr old home, low air leakage	Newer, sealed, affordable home built since 1970	Above avg windows & doors, and well insulated	Energy Star new home
800	93	46	38	35	34	29	26
1000	109	54	44	41	40	34	30
1200	124	62	49	46	44	38	33
1400	138	69	54	51	49	42	37
1600	151	75	59	55	53	45	40
1800	163	81	63	59	57	48	43
2000	174	87	67	63	60	51	45
2200	185	93	71	66	64	54	48
2400	196	98	74	69	67	57	50
2600	206	103	77	72	69	59	52
2800	215	107	80	75	72	61	54
3000	224	112	82	77	74	63	56
3200	232	116	85	79	76	65	57
3400	241	120	87	82	78	67	59
3600	248	124	89	83	80	68	60
3800	256	128	91	85	82	70	61
4000	263	131	92	87	84	71	63
4200	270	135	94	88	85	72	64
4400	276	138	95	90	86	73	65
4600	282	141	97	91	87	74	66
4800	288	144	98	92	89	75	66
5000	294	147	99	93	89	76	67

How to estimate the winter heating costs for your home and to compare alternatives:

- 1) In the table above find an estimated million BTUs for your home's heating needs
- 2) On Duke Energy's "Heating Costs and Comparisons" web page, find the pages titled, "Compare all Rates & Systems". There is one for Gas and Oil and one for Electric systems. On these pages, find your heating system, your cost per fuel and your Cost per Million BTUs
- 3) Multiply the millions of BTUs you need per winter by the Cost per Million BTUs.
- 4) Compare this answer with your current heating fuel bills to see if this estimate is close.
- 5) Multiply the millions of BTUs you need by the Cost per Million BTUs for alternative systems.

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