

Estimating How Much Heat You Need for One Winter In Central Indiana and Central 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 Central Indiana or Ohio will use 50 to 80 million BTUs in an average winter. Gray cells indicate the most common heating needs for typical Midwest homes.

Central 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	108	54	44	41	40	34	30
1000	126	63	51	47	46	39	34
1200	144	72	57	53	52	44	39
1400	160	80	63	59	57	48	43
1600	175	88	69	64	62	52	46
1800	189	95	73	68	66	56	50
2000	203	101	78	73	70	60	53
2200	216	108	82	77	74	63	55
2400	228	114	86	80	77	66	58
2600	239	120	89	84	81	69	60
2800	250	125	93	87	84	71	63
3000	260	130	96	90	86	73	65
3200	270	135	98	92	89	76	67
3400	280	140	101	95	91	78	68
3600	289	144	103	97	93	79	70
3800	297	149	105	99	95	81	72
4000	306	153	107	101	97	83	73
4200	313	157	109	103	99	84	74
4400	321	160	111	105	100	85	75
4600	328	164	112	106	102	86	76
4800	335	168	114	107	103	87	77
5000	342	171	115	109	104	88	78

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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