

Get the most from your zonal electric heat

Zonal heating systems – including baseboard heat, wall heaters and radiant heat – are affordable to install and can heat your home efficiently. Because you can heat each zone or room of your home to the temperature you want, you can be comfortable without heating rooms you're not using.

Follow these guidelines to make sure your system operates efficiently and keeps you comfortable.

Close the door

Turn down the thermostat in rooms you're not using and close the doors. This allows you to keep heat where you want it.

Keep grills clean

Vacuum the grills on forced air wall heaters regularly. This simple task keeps fans running efficiently and quietly and extends the life of the heater.

Allow air to circulate

Placing furniture or other obstructions in front of your heaters blocks air flow and makes your system operate inefficiently. Never place anything in front of a heating unit with a fan. If you have baseboard heat and need to place furniture in front of it, place it at least a foot away from the wall so warm air can rise from the baseboard and circulate into the room.

Avoid cool drafts

Keep thermostats at the same setting in rooms that connect to each other to prevent drafts. Drafts naturally flow from a cooler space to a warmer space.

Don't fiddle with the thermostat

Set the thermostat to the temperature you want and leave it there. A room will heat up just as fast if the thermostat is set at 70 degrees, than if it's set at 80 degrees.

Turn it down at night

For best comfort, economy and quick morning warm-ups, lower the thermostat by eight to ten degrees at night. Reducing the temperature by more than 10 degrees will lengthen warm-up times in cold weather. Lowering it less than that won't maximize nighttime energy savings. In fact, in a fully weatherized home, turning the heat off saves little more than setting the thermostat back 10 degrees.

Use your setback thermostat

If you have a central setback switch in your home, set all room thermostats for the desired temperature when they're occupied. To lower the temperature in any room, move the switch to the setback position, 8-10 degrees lower. To return temperature control to the room's thermostat, simply reset the central switch to the neutral, non-setback position.



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Upgrade your thermostat

If your home has a mechanical thermostat, consider installing an electronic programmable model. They are more precise than mechanical thermostats and improve comfort and economy. Look for a model with a setback feature, which you can set to automatically lower temperatures at night or other times during the day. Some models use occupancy or light sensors to turn heat on or off.

Save with each degree

Consider lowering your thermostat setting by a degree or two to save on your heating bill. As a rule, for every degree you lower the temperature, your electricity use drops by 3 percent. In order to achieve these savings, you must lower the setting in all zones.*

Weatherize for comfort and savings

Insulating your home and sealing air leaks will make your home more comfortable and can reduce your heating costs.* Qualified insulation projects are eligible for cash incentives from Energy Trust of Oregon and federal tax rebates.

For insulation and energy saving tips, plus details on rebates and incentives, log onto PortlandGeneral.com/EE or call the PGE Energy Experts.

PGE Energy Experts

Portland: 503-612-3500

Outside Portland: 1-800-722-9287



* Individual circumstances will vary. Ask the PGE Energy Experts, or your dealer, for more information.

