



Energy  
Efficiency  
Program

Understanding

# High-efficiency furnaces

## About the technology

Furnaces keep spaces warm by heating air and distributing it throughout an interior space. The furnace is triggered to turn on when the thermostat detects a lower temperature than the set point. Natural gas ignites in the furnace's burner to heat the air, then the heated air rises through the heat exchanger and a blower fan sends the warmed air to vents to be distributed throughout the space.

### When to replace your furnace

If your natural gas furnace is more than 12 years old, its efficiency and performance have likely been reduced over time. As a furnace works harder to heat a space, it wastes energy and money. Signs that you may need a new furnace include:

- Inconsistent temperatures
- Breakdowns and repairs in the past two years
- High energy bills
- Loud operations

### Maintaining your furnace

Once you install an energy-efficient model, there are simple ways to maximize its efficiency:

- Regularly clean and replace filters
- Remove dirt and corrosion from the heat exchanger
- Check air ducts and heating pipes to make sure they are properly sealed
- Keep vents clean and unrestricted by furniture and carpets

### Why high-efficiency furnaces?



#### Performance

Enhances equipment performance and extends equipment useful life



#### Air quality

Reduces hazardous air pollution and improves air quality



#### Comfort

Consistent, quiet and comfortable heating

In most businesses, space heating dominates energy costs and accounts for about 94% of natural gas consumption.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>bizenergyadvisor.com

## How to participate in the Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program

Receiving energy-efficient equipment rebates through the Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program is easy. Follow these three steps to apply:

### 1. Verify your eligibility

- You must be a Nicor Gas commercial customer to participate.

### 2. Select and install a qualifying product

- Install qualifying high-efficiency equipment between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

### 3. Apply for your rebate

- Apply within 90 days of installation or by January 31, 2021, whichever comes first, to receive your rebate.
- Download a paper application or apply online by visiting [nicorgas.com/apply](https://nicorgas.com/apply). Once your application is approved, you will receive your rebate check in approximately six to eight weeks.
- You can also work with one of our Contractor Circle members who can offer an instant discount on your invoice instead of applying for a rebate. Visit [nicorgas.com/findacontractor](https://nicorgas.com/findacontractor)



### Rebate eligibility requirements

- All furnaces must have an AFUE of 92 percent or greater to qualify.
- Furnaces must have an input capacity ≤ 225 Thousand British Thermal Units per Hour (MBTUH).
- Residential-sized furnaces must be installed in commercial or multi-family spaces and must be used for space heating.

Additional requirements apply. View full requirements on the space and water heating equipment application, which you can download at [nicorgas.com/apply](https://nicorgas.com/apply).

Visit [nicorgas.com](https://nicorgas.com) or call **877.886.4239** to learn more.

