

What rooms are they suitable for?

Flued gas space heaters will adequately heat areas from 30 m² to 100 m². Unflued heaters will heat areas up to approximately 70 m². Gas space heaters are suitable for living areas. They are not appropriate for installing directly in bedrooms, but could be located in a hallway adjacent to such rooms. They are also unsuited for utility areas or for individual heating of small rooms (e.g. separate studies).

What are their advantages?

- > One of the most economical forms of heating (if using natural gas).
- > Provide instantaneous heat.
- > Energy Rating labels allow easy comparison of efficiency and running costs.

Considerations

Unflued heaters require adequate ventilation during use, wasting heat produced and causing draughts. Convective or fan assisted models can circulate dust. Unflued heaters produce small amounts of irritant and/or noxious fumes during combustion (flued heaters exhaust these to the outside). LPG-fired heaters currently cost approximately two and a half times more to run than natural gas heaters, and need space for a storage cylinder.

How can I run my heater as efficiently as possible?

Sizing

Economical running costs rely on a correctly sized heater. Accurate sizing is essential before buying a unit, and should include a detailed heat load survey by a qualified technician recommended by the heater's manufacturer or retailer. Under or oversized units will give poor performance. As a guide, allow 100W heat output per m² of floor area if your ceilings are insulated, and 80W per m² if both ceilings and walls are insulated. Uninsulated houses will require higher levels of heating.

Thermostats

A thermostat ensures that heat is not wasted through overheating a room. Most convective gas space heaters have integral thermostats, although radiant/convection models often lack them. A setting of 18–21°C is adequate for living areas. Programmable thermostats and timers are recommended as they allow greater heating flexibility and can potentially lower running costs.

Fans

Ceiling fans help to distribute heat quickly around the room, lowering running costs. They are particularly useful in rooms with higher ceilings (fans cost less than one cent an hour to run).

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