

GAS FURNACES

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

There are so many models to look at. Here are the key differences and what matters!

Efficiency Rating



You'll see that furnaces we offer are 95% to 98% efficient. We do not recommend to fixate on efficiency because just like an EPA estimate on a vehicle, when it is put in your home it will not be the same. The fact you're 95% or higher is great! Anything past that you're just splitting hairs.

1-Stage, 2-Stage, Modulating



Furnaces are produced with different stages. The whole point of staging is to have a longer run time and get the warm air to further parts of your home, making the temperature more even. It's all about the comfort of your home.

Single Stage: Turns on at 100% until thermostat tells it to turn off.

Two Stage: Turns on at around 50-60% for a certain number of minutes, if it cannot satisfy your thermostat, it will go to 100% until done. Thermostats can also force it to 100% right away if needed (if your thermostat is wired for two stages)

Modulating: Turns on in a low fire rate and jumps up (and down) as needed to deliver a nice even heat to your home. The furnace will use logic to determine how it should adjust to keep your home at your set temperature.

Variable VS Fixed Motors



All furnaces have a blower motor to move air through your duct work into your home. Each furnace will have either a Fixed Speed or Variable Speed Motor.

Fixed Speed: A simple blower motor. Operates efficiently, but is limited to set speeds and will not deviate.

Variable Speed: An advanced blower motor. Operates efficiently, and very smart. Will attempt to overcome air restrictions. Allows you to fine tune a slow circulate speed.

Product Warranty



There are two warranties on a furnace. The furnace warranty and the heat exchanger warranty. The furnace warranty is typically a 10 year part, 1 year labor warranty, but some furnaces include a 10 year labor upgrade, giving you 10 years of true peace of mind. Check with your contractor about this!

The heat exchanger is the most expensive part of the furnace and it sees the most abuse over the life of the equipment. Typically a heat exchanger has a lifetime part warranty to the original owner, and 15-20 years if the house is sold. Even though a heat exchanger is under a part warranty, replacement can still cost \$600-1000 due to the hours of labor to replace, mixed with warranty processing and sometimes the contractor is stuck paying freight to get the part in.



©2024 Christensen & Wisnet Inc. (d/b/a The Good Guys Heating & Cooling)

This document is designed to help homeowners understand the key differences between natural gas furnaces out there. We strongly believe an informed decision is the only way to buy. We hope you found this document helpful!