

A Consumer's Guide to Energy-Efficient Space and Combination Heaters

Save energy and money by choosing an energy-efficient heater!

Choosing an energy efficiency heating system for your home is an effective way to significantly reduce the cost of your energy bill. This guide will help you make an informed and energy-efficient purchase.

Heating efficiency

Space heaters are just one component of your home's heating system. As not every heater will fit into your home, you must consider whether the heater is compatible with such heating components as radiators.

Properly installing a heater is a task best left to a skilled craftsman. In fact, an incorrect installation may actually increase your energy demand and even create safety risks!

Choosing an energy efficient heater can lower your energy costs significantly. If your home is equipped with a conventional gas-boiler using 20 MWh of energy per year, a new condensing gas-boiler can save you 275 € per year. In other words, the amount you save on energy will cover the cost of your new boiler in just seven years. More so, your energy bill will be reduced by more than 20%.

Shopping for your space or combination heater

The broad variety of space and combination heaters available on the market means you can select from a wide range of efficiencies.

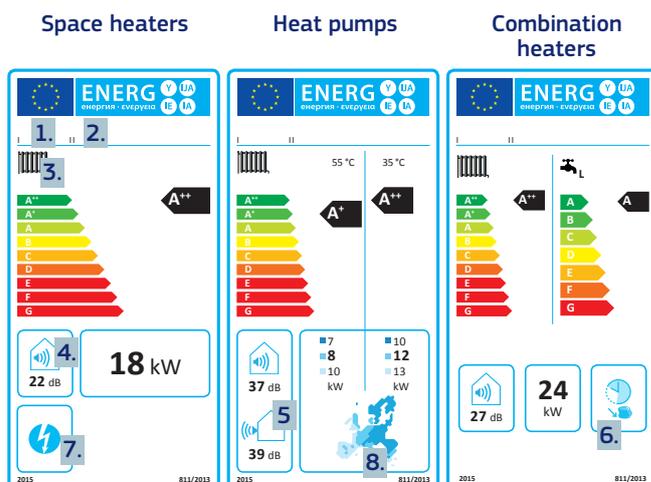
So how do you choose?

After you narrow down your options to the products that best meet your needs, the next step is to compare and see which is the most efficient – and which will save you more money. To do this, make sure the product's energy efficiency label's colour band is at least green.

Still not sure? With so many different space and combination heaters available on the market, it can be difficult to choose the right one. To help, here are some tips:

Reading the space and combination heater labels

Each heater will come with an energy label showing its energy efficiency on a scale from **A++ (most efficient)** to **G (least efficient)**. There are labels for boiler, cogeneration, heat pump and low temperature heat pump space heaters. Furthermore, there is a separate label for packages that combine these various heater types.



Despite this broad variety of labels, they all follow a common scheme that is quite simple to understand.

1. The company that made or placed the heater on the market
2. The model of the heater
3. The type of product is indicated by a symbol either showing a radiator, tap or water tank



4. The heater's maximum indoor sound level
5. The heater's maximum outdoor sound level
6. Boiler combination heaters able to work only during off-peak hours
7. The heater has an additional electricity generation function
8. European temperature map displaying three indicative temperature zones

Heat pumps label

The overall performance with the efficiency rating (up to A++) is differentiated according to the flow temperature of the heating system. If a low temperature system is used, the performance is usually higher.

To achieve this efficiency, your heating system must be capable of handling low temperature flows!

The performance of a heat pump also depends on the climate of the region you live. The heat output for the area you live is shown on the map in the lower right corner.

Combination heaters label

For heaters that include hot water generation, two additional labels are available:

- Boiler combination heaters
- Heat pump combination heaters

For information on water heating, please refer to the Consumer's Guide to Energy-Efficient Water Heaters.

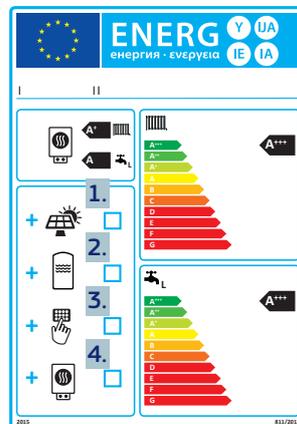
Tips on space and combination heater

- Refer to your dealer or installer's expertise in choosing the right product for your home.
- **Read the label:** An A or higher rating means the heater is one of the most efficient heaters on the market and can therefore reduce running costs. You can increase your energy-saving advantages by combining different technologies. By 'packaging' these different heater types, you can even reach an A+++ rating!
- **Consider the noise level:** The amount of noise a heater makes while operating is rated in decibels (dB). To give you some idea of what the scale means, a conversation at home is rated at 50 dB and a motor-cycle at 100 dB. For indoor sound level, heat pumps are in the range of about 40 to 50 dB. You might also consider the outdoor sound level, particularly if you will place your installation close to sound sensitive areas..
- **Consider where you live:** Heat pumps use ambient energy as its main source of energy conversion, the performance of a heat pump depends on your climate. The heat output for the area you live can be found on the label's map.

Reading the space and combination heater package labels

For combinations of different components, your dealer will provide an individual label, of which two variants exist:

- Packages of space heater, temperature control and solar device;
- Packages of combination heater, temperature control and solar device.



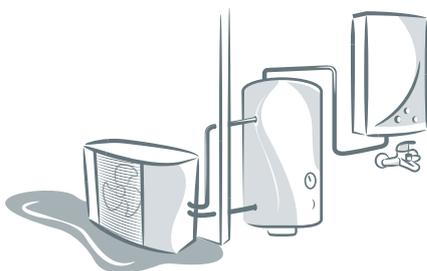
1. The package includes a solar collector
2. The package includes a hot water storage tank
3. The package includes temperature control
4. The package includes a supplementary heater

Only with a combination of the different technologies can you achieve the A+++ rating. Please note that such a combination must be planned and installed properly. The experience of your installer is crucial for a well-performing installation.

Tips for efficient heating

- Check your indoor temperature. An increase of 1°C will increase your energy bill by 7%
- Ideally, ventilate your home with open windows twice a day for 5 to 10 minutes. Keep your windows closed the rest of the time during the heating season.
- Use your heating controls to adapt the temperature levels to your presence. For instance, when not at home, you may want to slightly decrease the temperature.

More information



European Commission

- Regulation (EU) No 811/2013 of 18 February 2013 with regard to the energy labelling of space heaters, combination heaters, packages of space heater, temperature control and solar device and packages of combination heater, temperature control and solar device
- Regulation (EU) No 813/2013 of 2 August 2013 regard to ecodesign requirements for space heaters and combination heaters

- Energy Efficiency of Products
- Ecodesign and Energy Labelling

Should you have a question, please visit Europe Direct Contact Centre

