

**HANDOUT:** Heating Systems (3 pages)

Skill Builders: Key Words & Phrases, Charts & Graphs, Tables & Lists

**IN THE WORKPLACE:** The actual costs of different systems, such as electrical and heating, involve not just installation but operating and replacement over time. Understanding those complex costs is critical to ensuring overall project costs are accurate.

Refer to the **Heating Systems** article to locate the answers to the following questions.

1. What is the main focus of the article?

---

2. What systems are being compared?

---

3. What specific features are being compared?

---

4. Calculate for each system the total cost after each of the following:

- a. 1 year

- b. 10 years

- c. 20 years

5. Organize the information in the article as a table.

6. Organize the information in the article as a bar chart.

7. Which layout do you think is easiest to understand? Why?

---

### Heating Systems: What's Best?

There are many things to consider when choosing the right heating system for your home. The following provides information on some of the most popular options available today.

Natural gas furnaces are still one of the most common systems especially in older homes. New furnaces cost about \$4,700 to install. There might be a small rebate of \$500 on energy efficient models. Annual operating runs about \$1,800 a year.

Heat pumps provide not just heat but also cooling. Annual operating is less at about \$400. There are rebates of about \$2,800 because the systems are expensive to install at \$8,500.

Traditionalists may prefer wood stoves. Not as many are sold so the rebate is under a thousand at \$700. A quality stove costs about \$4,200. Operating is about \$1,300 assuming you can source some wood for free.

Finally, solar panels are expensive to install at \$15,000 for a small house. The rebates though is usually a third of that price. Annual operating is about \$200 mostly for maintenance.

Note: all figures are estimates and for demonstration purposes only.



Ref: Bow Valley College. (2020). Heating Systems: What's Best?. Calgary, Canada: Author.