LOOKING FOR A NEW GAS FURNACE AND GREAT SAVINGS? CHOOSE ONE WITH A VARIABLE SPEED MOTOR

NOT ALL GAS FURNACES ARE CREATED EQUAL. A GAS FURNACE WITH A VARIABLE SPEED MOTOR WILL MAKE YOUR HOME MORE COMFORTABLE AND REDUCE YOUR ENERGY BILLS, TOO.

If you're in the market for a new gas-fired forced-air furnace to heat your home, consider buying one with a variable speed motor. It may cost a little bit more at the store, but the savings you will see on your energy bills will more than make up for the initial extra cost.

THE VARIABLE SPEED ADVANTAGE

While the bulk of the energy used by your gas furnace is gas, your furnace still requires a substantial amount of electricity to power the blower motor. It is this motor that moves the air throughout your home.

Traditional gas furnaces are equipped with single-speed motors, so they operate at only one level: high.

A gas furnace equipped with a variable speed motor, on the other hand, operates at a range of speeds: running on lower speeds most of the time to maintain the temperature, and higher only when necessary (when the outside temperature drops abruptly, for example).

IMMEDIATE ENERGY SAVINGS

At higher speeds, variable speed motors use about one-third less energy than conventional motors.

At lower speeds, where they run most often, variable speed motors use as much as two-thirds less energy than conventional motors.

ENERGY SAVINGS BY THE NUMBERS

A conventional one-speed motor uses 400 watts of electricity per hour.

A variable speed motor typically uses only about 75 watts per hour—that's 325 watts of electricity less every hour it is in operation.

MORE PRECISE CONTROL

The variable speeds also give you more control over the temperature in your home. Using intelligent technology, the motor continually adjusts the fan levels to keep your temperature exactly where you want it.

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LESS HUMIDITY/BETTER AIR QUALITY

Believe it or not, the average family produces about 10 litres (2.6 gallons) of moisture a day through simple, everyday activities like cooking, washing dishes, washing clothes and taking baths or showers.

This moisture in the air of your home can lead to mold and mildew, which may cause allergies or lung problems, and to nasty stains on your windowsills, walls and ceilings. It can also cause the paint to blister or peel both inside and outside your home, and can even lead to rot and structural decay in wood-framed houses or buildings.

Leaving your furnace fan on at low speed at all times (even when you don't need heating or cooling) will help control the humidity in your home. It will also increase the amount of ventilation in your home and improve your indoor air quality by regularly exchanging stale indoor air for fresh outdoor air—helping you and your family breathe easier.

(Please see our tip sheets called *Reduce Condensation, Increase Health and Comfort* and *The Secret to Good Indoor Air Quality: Good Ventilation* for more detailed information about reducing moisture and improving air quality.)

QUIETER OPERATION/LONGER LIFE

As an added bonus, a variable speed motor is quieter than a conventional, one-speed motor. A one-speed motor comes on at high, usually with a noisy gust of air. A variable speed motor gradually ramps up to speed, so there's no sudden blast in your ears (or cool draft on your shoulders), especially while you're sleeping!

And if that is not enough, a variable speed motor will not get stressed or overheat as easily as a conventional one-speed motor, which means it will last a lot longer.

BUILT-IN VERSATILITY: HEATING, COOLING AND VENTILATION

A gas furnace with a variable speed motor will not only heat your home better in the winter than a conventional, one-speed furnace, you can also use it as a fan only for whole-house ventilation year round.

There are even furnaces today that will cool your home in summer, too—the variable speed motor makes it possible for one appliance to serve as heater, air conditioner and ventilation system.

POWER SMART IS YOUR SOURCE FOR HELPFUL AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT SAVING ENERGY.

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