

Heating Method Comparison



	Gas Heaters (Portable, medium 26-66sqm)	Electric Heaters (Portable / Space Heaters)	Reverse-cycle Air Conditioners (LG Split System)
Ideal for	Heating smaller to medium-sized spaces.	Small enclosed rooms	Small models are good for a single room, while larger models can heat bigger spaces such as open-plan living areas.
Small Rooms (10-20 sqm)	 Small Gas (1.5 kW)	 Portable Electric Heater (2.4kW)	 Small reverse-cycle air con (3.5kW)
Medium Rooms (35 sqm)	 Medium gas (3.5kW)		 Medium system (6.0kW)
Large Areas (60 sqm)	 Large gas (7kW)		 Large system (8.5kW)
Upfront Cost	\$400 - \$1400 plus plumber/gas fitter to install gas point	\$200	\$1850
Average cost per hour	\$0.36 - 0.43	\$0.60	\$0.13 - \$0.36
Approximate Running Cost / 500 hours (10-20 sqm room)	\$215	\$300	\$180
Doesn't require ventilation			
Doesn't require gas			

Safety	Produces small amounts of waste products, including carbon monoxide, nitrous dioxide, fine particles, and water vapour, that can contribute to respiratory health problems and lead to condensation and mould.	Space heaters are responsible for around 43% of all home heating related fires.	Since reverse cycle air conditioners do not have exposed elements, they are a 100% safe way to generate heat
Heating performance	Heat up the home faster than electric, more efficient in really cold temperatures because they can reach higher temperatures than electric units	Turn 100% of the energy they consume into heat, unlike gas units, but are slower to heat up.	Tend to run less efficiently in cold weather and regions. 'Absorbs' heat from the outdoor air to warm the air inside, which is a more energy efficient technique than conventional units.
Energy Efficiency	Provides only 0.9 units of heat for each unit of energy.	Provides 4 units of heat for each unit of electricity you consume, uses only a fraction of the energy of the most efficient equivalent gas heater.	Become more efficient in terms of energy consumption and cost with time. One kilowatt of electricity consumed will typically create three or more kilowatts of heating or cooling energy.
Solar energy compatible			
Maintenance	Gas heaters need to be professionally serviced every few years to ensure they're operating safely and effectively.	No professional maintenance required, dust/debris removal is recommended at least once a year to prevent overheating/loss of efficiency.	Filters must be cleaned every two months, or efficiency can be reduced by up to 50%. Services twice a year, and more if the unit is in constant use.
Warranty	Standard 5 years (Rinnai)	Standard 1-2 years	10-year compressor warranty
Other Cons	<p>Illegal to use in bedrooms, bathrooms and other small or badly ventilated rooms due to emissions.</p> <p>Installing carbon monoxide alarm(s) is recommended.</p> <p>Gas is also a fossil fuel, a factor to consider if you're trying to go green.</p> <p>Average national gas prices continue to rise.</p>	<p>Contrary to popular belief, heating with highly energy efficient gas appliances has less impact on the environment. Gas products produce fewer emissions than electrical appliances, and have lower operating and maintenance costs. In addition, gas is the cleanest burning, lowest emissions fossil fuel.</p>	<p>More expensive to buy and install</p> <p>Requires professional installation</p>