

NORA Produces New Guides for Heating Oil

Oilheat dealers in NC are getting a timely assist with their efforts to maximize the effectiveness of every drop of heating oil consumed this winter, thanks to a new publication issued by the National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA). **“Efficient Oilheat, an Energy Conservation Guide”** is a companion to NORA’s national Gold Certification program. This educational guide helps technicians converse with homeowners about various low- and no-cost techniques for conserving heating fuel. It provides low cost strategies such as proper tune up and burner adjustments, as well as common sense advice.

The Guide instructs how to make accurate evaluations of existing heating equipment and the effectiveness of certain control devices. The Guide serves as a convenient reference tool by which Oilheat distributors can help customers determine if a new heating system is worth the cost and estimate what can be expected for a payback period.

NORA’s also has a new fuel quality technical manual for proper maintenance and storage of liquid product. Titled **“A Guide to Fuel Performance”**, this is an essential off -the-shelf-reference book for anyone who is responsible for overseeing the purchase and quality control of the fuel resold to consumers. Maintaining fuel quality is essential for efficient heating. When properly accommodated, the storage, transportation and eventual delivery can enhance fuel performance over longer periods of time. Improperly performed, they can have deleterious effects on fuel quality.

This book contains informative guidelines on maintaining fuel quality for No. 2 heating oil and also addresses the factors that may degrade fuel. The Guide examines, in detail, the specific fuel properties used to diagnose and solve fuel-related operating problems.

Among the information provided are:

- An extensive list of fuel properties and their definitions;
- ASTM Fuel Specifications for burner fuels and diesel fuel;
- Charts on stability test methods
- A cloud point chart listed by month and region;
- Effect of kerosene on pour point temperatures;
- And a list of generic fuel additives and their respective functions.

The *Guide* explains the oil distillation process, and the differences between diesel fuel (whose sulfur content is regulated) and heating oil. It further explains the heating oil designations established by the American Society for Testing and Materials: No. 1 heating oil, No. 2 heating oil, and No. 6 heating oil. Recommendations are provided on how to sample fuels on an incoming barge, at bulk terminals, in the delivery truck, or at the residential tank.

The book will prove helpful to those buying and receiving product by addressing ordering specifications and testing to those specs; pulling samples from the received product; and cold-flow properties of oil purchased in the summer that is intended for winter consumption.

The manual/guides can be ordered online at www.norastore.org

The newly released **“Homeowners Guide to Heating Oil”** is available to consumers free of charge via an Internet download or by written request. The Guide provides homeowners, and prospective homebuyers with information on the advantages and cost savings associated with using Oilheat. By logging on to <http://www.oilheatamerica.com/> anyone who lives in a four-season climate can easily link to a variety of topics, ranging from an explanation of how Oilheat systems work to information on the latest EnergyStar high-efficiency equipment, plus advice regarding the purchase and sale of an Oilheated home. In the Homeowners section, viewers can download and print the guide a highly informative pamphlet that demonstrates the safety and cleanliness of Oilheat, the advantage of Oilheat storage, and the payback period for a new Oilheat system. (TL)