

25 OF THE BEST



Rinnai Sapphire gas log flame fire, \$3199



Linda convection heater with turbo fan and timer, \$49, from Target

VioFlame 2100RWG ethanol-fuelled heater, \$1199, from Black And Stone



Chimenea Chapala cast-iron outdoor heater, \$289, from Bunnings



Omega Altise column heater, with fan, \$89, from Harvey Norman

The heat is on

These winter products are really hot stuff



Nevados outdoor steel chimenea, \$159, from Bunnings

Jumbuck steel outdoor fire pit, \$69, from Bunnings



Jetmaster Universal 850 wood-burning open fire, from \$2200



Abode electric fireplace, \$83.28, from www.bigw.com.au



Kogan portable electric panel heater, \$199



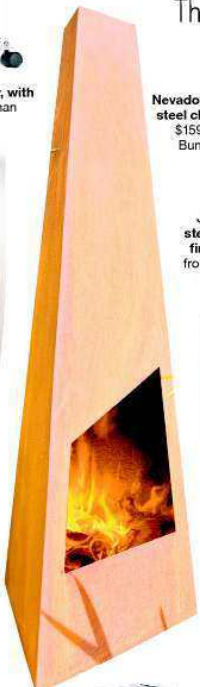
Sunbeam Micro Furnace ceramic disc heater, \$299



Kogan reverse-cycle portable air conditioner and heater, \$449



Delonghi ceramic fan heater, \$59.95, from Myer

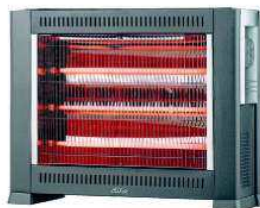


Omega Altise 2400w electric heater, \$78, from Harvey Norman

SAVE \$24



Modern Living fan heater, \$19, from Target



Jetmaster Heat & Glo 6000 flued gas log fire, from \$5300



EcoSmart Fire Stix indoor/outdoor ethanol heater, \$1795



Sunbeam Smartheat oil-filled radiator, \$199



Dimplex Allegri electric fire, \$142, from Big W



Rinnai EnergySaver power-flued gas heater, \$2199



VioFlame 2100R ethanol-fuelled heater, \$899, from Black And Stone



Linda flame-effect heater, Target, \$149

STOCKISTS: Target, www.target.com.au or 020 997 3952; Harvey Norman, www.harveynorman.com.au or 1300 655 529; Myer, www.myer.com.au or 1800 831 831; Bunnings, www.bunnings.com.au or 1300 881 881; Kogan, www.kogan.com.au; Black & Stone, www.blackandstone.com.au; EcoSmart Fire, www.ecosmartfire.com.au or 020 997 3952; Big W, www.bigw.com.au or 1300 328 622; Big L, www.bigl.com.au

Stylized by Mercedes Maguire

ELECTRICITY

● **Pros:** Readily available; energy-efficient; instant heat; no pollutants in your home; some providers offer green schemes, where you can pay slightly more for electricity from renewable sources; no need to store fuel; simple to use; usually cheap to buy.

● **Cons:** Can be costly to run; electricity plants produce carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other air pollutants; no heating in a black-out; often limited capacity for large areas.

Types of electric heaters:

Oil-filled column heaters: Slow to warm; if you're not moving, heat can settle in layers, leaving you with cold feet, although buying a fan-assisted heater can overcome this. Useful where they are switched on and left, such as in a bedroom overnight.

Convection heaters: Draw cold air over an electric heating element; usually have a fan, which pushes warm air from the heater and heats rooms more quickly and evenly; without it, the air is more likely to settle into layers; can be noisy.

Fan heaters: Fast heat but only in a small area; often noisy; poor energy efficiency; to avoid burns, choose one with a plastic, not metal, grille.

Radiant heaters: Personal heaters only, radiating heat from a red-hot element; very inefficient in heating a room; the element can be a fire and safety hazard.

Reverse-cycle air conditioners: Can heat or cool a room and are the most cost-effective form of heating, up to three times more efficient than other electric heaters and even better than gas. Expensive to install but cheap to run.

NATURAL GAS

● **Pros:** Cheap; less CO₂ than electricity (except for reverse-cycle air-conditioning); good heating capacity; carry star labels advising of their energy efficiency.

● **Cons:** Not available everywhere; they produce combustion gases, so you must install a flue or live with the gases in your home; can bother asthmatics or people with certain allergies.

Types of gas heaters:

Unflued: quick, energy-efficient, portable and economical. More expensive than portable electric heaters, but much cheaper to run. Because of emissions, they should be in well-ventilated areas.

Flued: More expensive than unflued portable heaters, these release emissions through a chimney or flue, so ventilation problems are eliminated. Cheap to run.

Central: Ducted central heating can be costly to install but is efficient and economical to run. Braemar is currently offering a \$1000 dealer/manufacture cashback if you buy a natural gas central heating system by August 31.



Braemar natural gas central heating system, POA, from thenaturalchoice.com.au



DENATURED ETHANOL

(Methylated spirits)

● **Pros:** Eco-friendly; no fumes (except water vapour); no need for vents or flues, or a gas or electrical connections; comparable in heating capacity and efficiency to an unflued gas heater; not expensive to buy; often very stylish-looking.

● **Cons:** Expensive to run: a litre of fuel, at about \$2.50, gives 1.5 to two hours burning on a high setting. The same amount of heating with gas would cost around 50c; many models have open flames, so care is needed. Blu Box Fireplaces is offering a 20 per cent discount to Shop SMART readers on its Slimboy ethanol-fuelled heater (right) until June 30.

Blu Box Slimboy, was \$1699, now \$1350 for Shop SMART readers. See www.bluboxfireplaces.com.au or call 1300 060 300

SOLID FUELS

● **Pros:** Wood and coal are available almost everywhere; wood is very economical if you have access to free firewood; if used sustainably (by regrowing the amount that's used) and burned in a slow-combustion heater, firewood produces little CO₂.

● **Cons:** Storage space is needed; time-consuming to load, start, maintain and clean; apart from modern slow-combustion heaters, solid-fuel heaters are less energy-efficient than electric and gas heating; they produce combustion gases and need a flue or chimney, which makes installation expensive; smoke from wood and coal fires contributes to air pollution; coal needs fire lighters or wood to get it burning.

